

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 06 December 2022

TITLE	Arts Council England 2023-2026 funding		
Ward(s)	ALL wards		
Author: Patsy Mellor	Job title: Director Management of Place		
Cabinet lead: Cllr Cheney, Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Performance	Executive Director lead: Stephen Peacock, Executive Director, Growth & Regeneration		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member			
Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report:			
To seek approval to accept the funding offer and, subject to negotiation of the funding agreement process, spend two offered grant awards for 2023-26 from Arts Council England (ACE) of up to £4,092,072 funding as part of their National Portfolio as investment into Bristol City Council’s Museums, and up to £2,040,000 funding as part of their National Portfolio as investment into museums across the south west region.			
Evidence Base:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From 2018 to 2022 C&CI received £5,358,680 from Arts Council England (ACE) as a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO). On an annual basis we received £1,364,320 for a programme of work using our five museums and resources to improve arts and culture in the city. Culture and Creative Industries (C&CI) also received £2,141,296 from Arts Council England (ACE) for the delivery of Museum Development in the south west of England from 2018 to 2022. Cabinet provided Council approval for the Arts Council NPO grant 2018-22 and Museum Development South West NPO grant 2018-22 on 9 January 2018. Both NPO programmes of funding were awarded extension funding as a result of the pandemic. https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=135&MID=2841. 2. The current funding for Bristol’s Museums Service comes to an end in March 2023 and for the Museum Development service in March 2024. The previous 2018-22 NPO funding round annually invested c.£800k into Museum Service staff salaries with remaining funds allocated to delivery of museum programme activity. ACE funding is currently around 20% of the Culture & Creative Industries budget. ACE funding provides all costs associated with the delivery of the South West Museum Development programme and it is not dependant on council budgets. Achievements as result of this funding in 2021-2022 were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabled 231 volunteer opportunities • Earned just over £1 million income from Museum Service activity such as retail, events and programming • Received c.£260,000 contributed income from sponsorship and donations • Produced two publications: Grayson Art Club; Bristol and Transatlantic Slavery: A textbook for schools • Delivered 7 artistic commissions including 2 commissions by non-UK based artists of colour • Facilitated 123 UK and 2 worldwide collection loans in (physical and digital) • Facilitated 90 UK and 70 worldwide collection loans out (physical and digital) • Attracted 168,173 visitors to our exhibitions • Reached 51,416 people through our online events and engagement programme 			

- Achieved an average 50-60k visits to our museum website every month
 - Engaged 173,112 pupils with our formal learning sessions
 - Engaged 1303 children and families in our informal learning sessions.
3. On the 18 May 2022 Bristol Culture & Creative Industries applied to remain part of the ACE NPO portfolio and requested an ongoing annual investment of £1,364,024. This figure was guided by ACE as part of the preliminary application process. In order to be successful in securing NPO funding, the application needed to strongly communicate how we would deliver against ACE's new 10-year strategy *Let's Create*. On 4 November 2022, Arts Council England made a conditional offer of investment of £1,364,320 per year for 2023-6. The funding is subject to completion and submission of the following documents for the period April 2023 – March 2024 by 20 January 2023 to enable a final funding agreement to be successfully negotiated. The offer lapses on 31 March 2023.
- A completed Activity Plan template
 - A completed Investment Principles Plan template
 - A completed financial template.
4. South West Museum Development (SWMD) is a sector support service provided to over 200 museums across the south west of England. Museum Development is a national programme delivered across England through nine regional programmes and operated through Bristol Culture and Creative Services since 2009. SWMD is core funded by Arts Council England, received £540,200 in 2023-24, and is modelled to receive around £700,000 per annum in 2024-26.
- Each year SWMD works in partnership with over 20 Local Authorities across the region, alongside national funders such as National Lottery, Historic England and the Art Fund to amplify investment and development support for museums and heritage organisations across the region. This support is adapted to the specific context of museums and heritage in the region to ensure they are more sustainable, engage diverse audiences and support the sector to recover and rebuild following the pandemic.
- Each year over 230 museums engage in SWMD programmes and services. Each year it provides over £100,000 in small grants, engages over 600 delegates in the SW Museum Skills programme, and raises the profile of museums and heritage in the region as a key driver for tourism, skills development and place shaping.
- The Museum Development programme is wholly funded through the ACE NPO grant and, as such, no Bristol City Council funding is required. As Bristol Museums is the primary beneficiary of Arts Council England's museum NPO investment in the region – receiving almost one third of regional museum NPO funding – Bristol Museums realises a key sector leadership role in the provision of Museum Development for the region. SWMD is a key vehicle through which Bristol Museums shares innovative practice, leads sector development, and raises the profile of Bristol Museums regionally and nationally.
5. Approval of the conditional offer of investment made on 4 November 2022 will mean:
- Investment in our recovery from the impact of COVID and consolidate our identity and purpose
 - Investment in museum sector support to recover and rebuild stronger from the impact of the pandemic
 - Exploring and expanding our role as cultural assets, place makers, and people engendering civic pride, identity and reflection
 - Investment in 200 years of Bristol Museums as a pivotal moment to look back and imagine forward
 - Maximising the value of our museums and environments to support people's education, health as well as creativity
 - Expand our civic role in partnership with wider council services
 - Focus on accessibility, inclusivity, and diversity for audiences to our museums and museums across the region
 - Leadership in the sector to realise the role of museums and the collections they hold to support people's learning, pride, well-being and creativity.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

Authorises the Executive Director Growth and Regeneration in consultation with Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Performance, to take all steps required to accept and spend the Arts Council England NPO funding including procuring and awarding contracts (which may be over £500k) as outlined in this report.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

Development and Delivery:

ACE NPO funding in 2023-26 will enable the service to become a dynamic, experimental, agile and resilient museums service that meet the needs of our audiences, city and times. To support the service to achieve and monitor the long-term changes we seek to achieve during 2023-26, we will establish an Advisory Group. The group will provide an opportunity for the service to connect with and deepen our existing relationships with external partners and communities that are assisting us to address areas such as learning, representation, diversification of our workforce and the environment, working to terms of reference that will speak to our Corporate Strategy, One City priorities and *Let's Create*.

Environmental sustainability:

ACE NPO funding in 2023-26 will ensure we can demonstrate sector leadership through a data informed approach to reducing our impact on the planet, using our collections, buildings and expertise to educate and empower people to creatively respond to the climate emergency. In the first year of funding we intend to set operational sustainability targets, use our assets to create inclusive spaces for environmental conversations, engage with city and international research, evaluate targets, share learning with sector organisations and develop environmental engagement and research programme action plans in line with the funding period.

Equality and Inclusion:

The organisational culture will change to enable us to build on our existing relationships with diverse and under-represented communities to offer more opportunities for engagement and to shape and work in our service. Our first year will focus on working with external, internal and wider teams to audit/benchmark where we are, identify the structures/processes we need to change, implement a staff development programme, and produce a targeted organisational development plan.

Resilience:

ACE NPO funding in 2023-26 will help us to build on our learnings from the challenges and changes of the last 2 years and enable us to build resilience and risk management into our planning as we work with wider BCC departments to better our monitoring techniques to inform future developments. Our earned income previously was £1.5 million but we are seeing strong return in retail and donations and, working with Bristol Museums Development Trust, aim to amplify the work we do.

World Class Employment:

We will seek to encourage creativity across a diverse and skilled workforce and partners, with a vision and structures that works harmoniously for the benefit everyone. We will harness the breadth of talent and specialisms in the service, engender greater cross-service working, and improve collaboration with the internal departments at BCC, and with multiple external stakeholders to give greater focus and impact to our work; we will support local talent, businesses and industry. The results of development work in 2023 will support key BCC priorities, including: children and young people; economy and skills; health; care and well-being; environment and sustainability; and, a development organisation.

City Benefits:

The investment and recognition resulting from continued ACE NPO investment will enable the service to celebrate the culture and people of the city that is accessible for everyone. The investment will ensure we can continue to

respond to, and meet the needs of, Bristol citizens, as well as reaching out nationally and internationally to raise the profile of the city as one that is creative, caring, diverse and ambitious.

The investment will directly and positively impact on the following:

1. Equalities – The funding supports service provision and opportunities for everyone to participate in culture through the development of an inclusive programme of activities celebrating the unique creative and cultural diversity in Bristol.
2. Health – The funding supports activity that encourages everyone to be creative or participate in cultural experiences which support well-being and fuel a sense of belonging.
3. Sustainability – This funding supports activity that engages audiences and the sector in the climate emergency, seeking to encourage debate, knowledge and collaboration for effective change.
4. Social Value – The investment will enable enhanced social value in terms of well-being by promoting identity, belonging, tolerance and cohesion. The funded activity will provide a source of inspiration, creativity and celebration in the city.

Consultation Details:

1. Staff consultation and development workshops took place throughout Autumn 2021 and Spring 2022
2. Bristol Museum Development Trust consultation at board meetings Autumn 2021 and Spring 2022
3. Young Collective consultation spring 2022.

Background Documents:

1. Submitted ACE NPO funding main application (need to check if this needs to be exempt/ part exempt)
2. South West Museum Development Business Plan for 2022-23
3. [South West Museum Development Annual Review 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21.](#)

Revenue Cost	£	Source of Revenue Funding	Bristol Culture & Creative Industries
Capital Cost	£	Source of Capital Funding	Grant
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

1. Finance Advice: The report is seeking approval to accept and spend the Grant funding awarded by both the Arts Council England (ACE). This funding is integral to how the Council delivers these services and allows the Council to continue to deliver best in class services and thus maintain access to this funding source.

The funding awarded totals £4,093,409.50 over 3 years from Arts Council England (ACE). This funding will support the Bristol Museum service (£1, 364,320 annually). In addition, up to £2,040,000 in funding also from Arts Council England as part of their National Portfolio as investment into museums across the southwest region. Neither of these funding requires any match funding from the Council to accept these grants.

Both grant awards are in line with existing budgeted expectations meaning there will be no adverse impact on the current approved budgets, with a slight reduction of the second grant by £100k.

The funding is awarded subject to the following being completed by March 2023:

- A completed Activity Plan template
- A completed Investment Principles Plan template
- A completed financial template.

Failure to secure this funding will financial implications across most teams within the Culture services, as well as implications for all the Southwest region development work. This is likely to result in Staff reductions, as well as a significant reduction in partnership working.

Table 1 below outlines the total funding for the service in 2022/23:

Cost Group	Total Budget
Employees	5,308,814
Premises-Related Expenditure	1,225,960
Transport-Related Expenditure	9,850
Supplies & Services	1,575,416
Third Party Payments	773,850
Support Services	395,648
Total Expenditure	9,289,538
Government Grants	-1,363,240
Other Grants/Reimbursements and Contrib	-3,625,629
Income - Customer and Client Receipts	-1,438,960
Income - Recharges	-57,880
Total Income	-6,485,709
Total	2,803,829

Finance Business Partner: Kayode Olagundoye, Interim Finance Business Partner for Growth and Regeneration, 24 November 2022

2. Legal Advice: Provided the agreement is a grant agreement and not a contract for services, it will not need to be procured in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Client officers will need to seek legal assistance to ensure the agreement is a grant agreement.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Manager, Solicitor, 15 November 2022

3. Implications on IT: I can see no implications on IT in regard to this activity

IT Team Leader: Alex Simpson, Senior Solution Architect, 24 November 2022

4. HR Advice: No evidence of HR implications, having been awarded the investment.

HR Partner: Celia Williams, HR Business Partner – Growth and Regeneration, 25 November 2022

EDM Sign-off	Stephen Peacock, Executive Director Growth and Regeneration	14 November 2022
Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllr Cheney, Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Performance	4 November 2022
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	14 November 2022

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	NO
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	YES
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	No
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO