



Report to: Cabinet Meeting - 17 January 2023

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Rhona Holloway, Economic Development & Visitors

Director Lead: Matthew Finch, Director - Communities & Environment

Lead Officer: Carys Coulton-Jones, Business Manager - Heritage & Culture, Ext. 5773

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open, Non-Key Decision
Report Title	Approval of National Portfolio Organisation - Detailed Plans
Purpose of Report	To seek formal approval for the Activity Plan, Investment Principles Plan and Budget for year one of NSDC's National Portfolio Organisation funding.
Recommendations	That Cabinet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) formally approves the Activity Plan, Investment Principles Plan and Budget for year 1; and b) agrees that in years 2 and 3, responsibility for considering the Plans will sit with the National Portfolio Organisation Board, with authority for approval being delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development & Visitors who will also be a member of the Board.
Alternative Options Considered	None. The approval of the plans is a requirement of the Arts Council England's funding agreement
Reason for Recommendations	The proposals will contribute to the creation of vibrant and self-sufficient local communities, working directly with communities and disadvantaged groups to create cultural value. This will help improve the health and wellbeing of local residents through targeted participatory activity, and the plans will support the Heritage and Culture business unit to deliver inclusive and sustainable economic growth as it further cements its position as a cultural destination and hub for the town and district.

1.0 Background

1.1 In March 2022, Policy and Finance Committee approved the Heritage and Culture Business Unit to submit an application to the Art Council England (ACE) to become a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO). That report highlighted ACE's 10 year strategy

and its stated outcomes for all funded activity. It also identified the importance of embedding ACE's four Investment Principles of Ambition & Quality, Inclusivity & Relevance, Dynamism and Environmental Responsibility into the application.

- 1.2 Whilst the detailed plans were still under development at that time, the report outlined the approach that the business unit would take to create activity that supported the aims and objectives of the funding, and identified the expected funding level. For the full application, which was submitted in May 2022, a proposed Activity Plan, Investment Principles Plan and Budget were submitted using ACE's mandatory templates.
- 1.3 ACE have now requested that all NPOs must resubmit their Activity Plan, Investment Principles Plan and Budget by 20th January 2023, taking into account any inflationary changes that may reduce the level of activity being delivered, and reflecting on any specific feedback provided by the ACE relationship manager regarding the application. To fulfil our funding agreement, these plans must be formally approved by the NPO Board, however as the Board will not be in place until April it has been agreed that the plans for year one can be approved by Cabinet and presented to the Board at their first meeting. Unfortunately, due to the timescales set by ACE and the level of detail required within the plans, they will not be available until 13 January 2023 and will therefore be published after the agenda for the meeting is issued.

2.0 Proposal/Details of Options Considered

- 2.1 It is proposed that Cabinet endorses and approves the Activity Plan, Investment Principles Plan and Budget for year one of the NPO funding agreement. It is also proposed that responsibility for considering the plans will sit with the NPO Board in years two and three, in line with ACE's funding agreement and terms of the grant. To ensure a cohesive, strategic approach to cultural delivery and appropriate oversight of this function of the Heritage and Culture Business Unit, the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Visitors will be allocated a place on the NPO Board.

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications; Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding, Sustainability, and Crime and Disorder and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Financial Implications (FIN22-23/7835)

- 3.1 Key decisions have already been taken by Cabinet (6 December 2022) to add the agreed NPO funding of £309,000 to the budget for the three years of the funding agreement, and to add the three new, funded roles to the establishment.

The plans being submitted with this report provide further detailed information about the activity, costings and cashflow for year 1 of the agreement within the bounds of these decisions and are being completed in conjunction with NSDC's Finance team, who will also support the Heritage and Culture team in preparing the quarterly monitoring forms for ACE. Therefore, there are no further implications.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.