

Agenda item:

Title of meeting: Culture, Leisure and Sport Decision Meeting

Subject: The ARTches Corporate Resource allocation

Date of meeting: 10 October 2014

Report by: Head of City Development and Cultural Services

Wards affected: St Thomas

Key decision: No

Full council decision: No

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request the release of funds allocated at the Full Council Meeting in February 2013 to the ARTches project now the scheme has secured both external funding and the required planning permission to proceed.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the £100,000 Corporate Resource Allocation is authorised for release as part of the matched funding for the delivery of the ARTches project now the external funding has been secured.**

3 Background

- 3.1 The ARTches project offers an important opportunity to bring the historic buildings at Point Battery back into active use and to support their maintenance into the longer term. The scheme will support the creation of new businesses and jobs and enhance the visitor offer in this popular part of the city.
- 3.2 Recent austerity cuts across the public sector, coupled with pressures on local authorities to maintain a range of services, has meant a reduction in available funding for councils and national bodies to support and maintain heritage sites.
- 3.3 Whilst the city council has made a recent investment in the maintenance of the buildings at Point Battery, it is important that other options are explored to secure funding into the future and to breathe new life into spaces as it is widely recognised that those that are in sustainable long-term use fare much better than those that are not.

- 3.4 Both the Council's Seafront Strategy (2010) and Seafront masterplan (2013) identify opportunities for a new cultural/artists quarter at the hotwalls. Consultation revealed the ARTches to be one of the most popular proposals in the Seafront masterplan where it was set out in more detail.

4. Funding Applications

- 4.1 It was clear from the outset that the ambition of the project could not be realised through funding from the council alone therefore a number of applications were submitted including one to the Coastal Communities Fund via the Big Lottery. The project was invited to apply with a detailed Stage 2 application which was submitted to the Big Lottery at the beginning of October 2013. We expected to hear the outcome of this in January 2014.
- 4.2 In the interim period whilst the applications were considered the project development continued as far as it could including the submission of a planning application which was granted in December 2013.
- 4.3 Officers continued to apply due diligence and progress the procurement process as far as possible to support the delivery of the project whilst the funding application was under consideration.
- 4.4 On 4th March we received a communication from the Big Lottery to inform us that whilst the assessors and Ministers really liked the project they required further information. This information was to be submitted to enable a further assessment of the bid which would then be considered on a fast-track process.
- 4.5 On 1st August we were informed that the largest application for £1,755,000 to the Big Lottery's Coastal Community Fund which had been submitted in October 2013 had been successful.
- 4.6 In addition to the successful Big Lottery application officers were able to maintain an earlier offer of funding of £40,000 from the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) on agreement of the larger funding position being confirmed by the end of August 2014.

5. Reasons for the recommendations

- 5.1 The successful implementation of this project relies on the release of the council allocation the need for which can now be confirmed as the Big Lottery have confirmed the main funding for the project.
- 5.2 The project will need to complete and fully deliver the whole scheme by 2016 in order to comply with the change of programme within the Coastal Communities Fund full details of which we are expecting imminently.
- 5.3 With on-going pressure on local authority funding delivery of such innovative projects need to ensure they attract in external funding. Through the delivery of an

initiative such as the ARTches project the council can take a core role in establishing effective partnerships which can bid for funding in the future.

6. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 6.1 An equality impact assessment is not required as the recommendations do not have a negative impact on any of the protected characteristics as described in the Equality Act 2010.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 The terms of all external funding for this project will need to be assessed to ensure that they are acceptable. Any further funding will also need to have terms which reflect the terms in existing funding.

8. Head of Finance Comments

- 8.1 The capital funding for the ARTches project is confirmed as;

Source	£
Coastal Communities Grant	1,568,600
Push Grant	40,000
PCC Capital Allocation	107,500
Revenue Contribution to Capital for 2013/14	45,000
Total	1,761,100

This includes expenditure of £52,500 that has been incurred in the preparation of the grant application. This sum was made up of £7,500 from PCC capital resources and a revenue contribution to capital of £45,000.

- 8.2 A revenue grant for 2 years was also awarded by the Coastal Communities to provide initial support for the new posts created by the scheme and a marketing budget. The value of this grant is £272,300.

.....
 Signed by
Stephen Baily
 Head of City Development and Cultural Services

Appendices: None

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 th February 2013	http://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/Data/Full%20Council/20130319/Agenda/coun20130212m.pdf

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport on 10 October 2014

.....
Signed by:
Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Sport