

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

Thursday, 13 October 2022

Report of the Executive Director - Place

Update on Cultural Framework and Cultural Recovery Fund
(Cabinet Member for Strategic Leadership, Culture, Tourism and Climate Change)

1. Divisions Affected

1.1 County-wide.

2. Key Decision

2.1 This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or savings which are significant having regard to the budget for the service or function concerned (this is currently defined as £500,000) and it is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral areas in the County.

3. Purpose

3.1 To approve the transfer of £1.000m from the Covid Recovery Fund Earmarked Reserve and create a new Cultural Recovery Fund Earmarked Reserve.

3.2 To seek Cabinet approval on the proposed focus and allocation of the £1m Cultural Recovery Fund (CuReF), set against the objectives within the Cultural Framework, via 10 targeted funding streams.

3.3 To approve the allocation of £415,000 from the CuReF Fund for delivery of MAKEit – The Derbyshire Festival of Making.

- 3.4 To note the creation of the proposed Grants Team and its role in supporting, administering and monitoring agreed elements of the Culture Recovery Fund, alongside other grant schemes within the remit of the Economy and Regeneration Service.

4. Information and Analysis

Cultural Framework

- 4.1 The Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DEP) Economic Development and Employment and Skills Recovery Strategy highlights the disproportionate impact the pandemic has had on creative and cultural industries and recognises the significant place-making impact that the sector provides.
- 4.2 The meeting of the Cabinet Member - Strategic Leadership, Culture and Tourism on 4 February 2021 (Minute No. 6/21 refers) approved proposals to support the economic recovery of Derbyshire's creative and cultural industries through a Cultural Framework developed by the Culture, Heritage and Tourism (CHAT) Board in direct response to COVID 19.
- 4.3 The Framework includes a blend of short-term actions to support recovery, along with longer term interventions to enable the sector to become more resilient, re-orientate, grow and capitalise on new opportunities. It seeks to maximise the economic impact of Derbyshire's creative and cultural industries and considers how best they can support Derbyshire's place-making strategies in particular, the visitor economy and market towns renewal programme.
- 4.4 At its meeting on 14 October 2021, Cabinet endorsed the Culture, Heritage and Tourism (CHAT) Board Cultural Framework and agreed for £1m to be allocated from the Council's COVID Recovery Fund to support delivery of the Framework through the setting up of a Cultural Recovery Fund (CRF) (Minute No. 168/21 refers).
- 4.5 The Framework sets out five themes for intervention:
1. Derbyshire Hothouse: Developing and diversifying Derbyshire's creative talent.,
 2. The Derbyshire Story: Celebrating Derbyshire's cultural heritage, stories, landscape and people.
 3. New Market Place: Revitalising Derbyshire's market towns. Celebrating their uniqueness and driving footfall to the high street.

4. Shine A Light: Developing distinctive signature projects, of scale and quality, to dramatically improve the offer for local communities and visitors.
5. Collective Derbyshire: Providing leadership and a shared voice to support sustainability and collaboration for CHAT sectors across the County and City

4.6 Since this time, a number of matters have been progressed. The first is that in response to agreement of the Framework, a two-year Implementation Plan was drafted and approved by the CHAT Board at its meeting on 12 May 2022, following dialogue with partners and key stakeholders. This is provided at Appendix 2.

4.7 Secondly, and quite importantly, the Council has been reviewing its approach to grant funding voluntary and community organisations. At its meeting on 8 September 2022, Cabinet considered a report that set out the review process and conclusions. It was noted that a total of 10 arts organisations within the County were currently in receipt of direct grant funding from the Council and it was approved at the meeting that following an assessment process, all 10 organisations should sit on 'pathway two', meaning that grant funding would be withdrawn at the end of March 2023. At the time of writing, a consultation exercise is currently being undertaken with those organisations to understand the impact of this decision.

4.8 Whilst progress against the Cultural Framework is currently monitored and reported to the CHAT Board and the Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DEP) Board, it is recognised these arrangements will be reviewed as part of on-going development within the context of the recently announced devolution deal.

4.9 Since the sign off of the Framework last year and the Implementation Plan in May 2022, a considerable amount of progress has been made including:

Hothouse

- Creative Roadshow: 4 in-person events held in April, highlighting support and opportunities available to creative industry practitioners. Attended by 78 creative businesses.
- Screen Industries; Ongoing development work including industry roundtable event and commissioned report to establish the feasibility of creating a Derby and Derbyshire Film Office, to support investment in film and television production and talent development across both authorities.

New Market Place

- Creative Micro Clusters: Ongoing work to support the development of micro clusters in Wirksworth, Ashbourne, New Mills and Glossop through formation of peer working group.
- Creative Co-working Spaces: Phase 1 scoping report commissioned to explore the opportunity for the development of creative co-working and digital workspace in Derbyshire.
- Culture Led Regeneration: Successful Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Round 1 Bid for Stephenson Memorial Hall, Chesterfield. Six further LUF Round 2 bids with cultural focus awaiting decision.

Shine A Light

- Large Scale Projection events lighting up key Derbyshire landmarks. Successful pilot in 2021 at Chatsworth and Cromford Mill - Over 3,200 tickets sold.
- Eight nights of activity planned over four sites for 2022-23 at Cromford Mill, Barrow Hill Roundhouse, Elvaston Castle and Hardwick Hall.

- 4.10 Targeted allocation of funding from the CuReF to key projects will ensure significant progress can be made in implementing the Plan over the coming years; this is set out below.

Enabling Delivery: The Cultural Recovery Fund

- 4.11 Delivery of the Cultural Framework requires an appropriate level of resource to ensure implementation of the plan; the £1m Cultural Recovery Fund is core to this.
- 4.12 It is proposed that the CRF fund will stimulate the creative and cultural economy by prioritising the following:
- Collaborative programming across organisations – to grow profile, reach and impact.
 - Collaboration between the cultural and tourism sectors to create new visitor economy products.
 - Growing the creative and cultural talent pool.
 - Extending the visitor season.
- 4.13 A Funding Framework has been developed to complement the Cultural Recovery Implementation Plan and is provided at Appendix 3 to this report. It proposes 10 targeted funding streams that will be delivered via a mix of open access grants, invitations to bid, commissions and

Council-managed strategic partnership programmes. The details of the roll out of these funds are outlined within Appendix 2.

- 4.14 If the CuReF is delivered as proposed it is estimated it will benefit approximately 130 recipients – see Appendix 3.
- 4.15 A primary objective of the CuReF is to lever external investment by utilising as much of the £1m as ‘clean match’ to help maximise the impact of the Council’s contribution as much as possible.

MAKEit – The Derbyshire Festival of Making

- 4.16 ‘Making’ is an important part of the Derbyshire Story, being a key component of both the county’s industrial and cultural heritage, and contemporary identity.
- 4.17 In line with a number of the core interventions set out in the Framework, it is proposed that MAKEit – The Derbyshire Festival of Making forms a core element of the Implementation Plan supported by an appropriate funding allocation from the CuReF.
- 4.18 MAKEit will be an annual, one-month long campaign and programme of activities, celebrating Derbyshire's rich heritage of making, from kitchen table to factory floor. It is proposed to be piloted in Autumn 2023 helping to strengthen the visitor offer and extend the season. MAKEit will link arts organisations, museums, archives, heritage sites, libraries, adult education, designer makers, further and higher education, manufacturers, and retailers. It will capitalise on the current popularity of making shown on TV programmes, such as the Sewing Bee and The Great Pottery Throw Down, amongst others
- 4.19 Linked to the wider economic growth and COVID recovery strategies which have highlighted market town renewal as a key priority, much of the creative output will focus on these places to drive footfall to high street and town centres, helping shift activity beyond retail and into cultural and community hubs. A year-round programme of participatory and grass roots work will feed into the festival alongside high quality commissions, graduate micro-commissions, talks, demonstrations and family focused activities. Sustainability will be a key festival objective.
- 4.20 It is proposed that MAKEit will form the basis of a large grant application to the Arts Council Place Partnership Programme. The application will be to fund the MAKEit Festival for a total of three years; Year 1 will be the pilot year in Autumn 2023, followed by review/evaluation and then a further two year programme in 2024 and 2025. It is proposed that a sum

of £415,000 be allocated from the CuReF to be used as match funding for the bid. To meet the proposed timescales, the funding application to Arts Council will need to be made by November 2022 at the latest.

- 4.21 A small working group, led by Derbyshire County Council and comprising representatives of the CHAT Board, including the University of Derby, the Museum of Making in Derby and the Derbyshire Museums and Heritage Forum, has been formed to oversee the development of the Festival programme. A separate DCC Cultural Officers Working Group, consisting of representatives from arts, heritage, libraries, countryside services, adult education and childrens' services has also been formed to feed into both the delivery of the Festival and of the wider Framework. The Council's Senior Economic Development Officer will co-ordinate both working groups, with progress and proposals reported to the main CHAT board.
- 4.22 Within the funding envelope, grants of up to £10,000 will be available to individual arts organisations, museums, artists and makers to provide content and support the delivery of the MAKEit Festival. A total of £310,000 is proposed to be made available from CuReF for the grants programme, which would be doubled to £620,000 if funding bids are successful. Those arts organisations who have previously received recurring funding from DCC will be encouraged to apply for these monies

Supporting Sector Development

- 4.23 There are a number of existing organisations that work to represent the arts sector and support its development, including Arts Derbyshire and the Derbyshire Museums and Heritage Forum. In ensuring the sector continues its valuable contribution to the Derbyshire economy – and that arts and cultural activity continues to support community vibrancy and wellbeing – it is proposed to include a programme of work to review and refresh our approach to sector support as part of the Framework – particularly *Pillar 5: Collective Derbyshire*. A separate funding allocation of £90,000 from the CuReF is proposed to support this work, as set out in Appendix 3.

Grants Team

- 4.24 Within the reshaped Economy and Regeneration Service, additional revenue funding has been secured to support the creation of a Grants Team which will be based in the new Sustainable Growth Service. The new Team will set up and administer the agreed elements of the CuReF and work will be aligned to sector support activity being undertaken by

existing senior economic development officers (SEDOs) to provide a more holistic service to arts and cultural organisations across the county.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The development of the Cultural Framework was based on a high degree of collaboration and consultation with culture, heritage and tourism organisations, with 22 face-to-face interviews and consultation with a further 56 representatives at 5 consultation events.
- 5.2 The CHAT Board has been consulted and has approved the Cultural Framework two-year Implementation Plan at its meeting on 12 May 2022.
- 5.3 CHAT is a county-wide, strategic partnership of public sector and place, based organisations who come together to champion, promote and facilitate the development of the visitor economy in Derbyshire. It's membership includes representation from higher education, arts, heritage, key sector support agencies and some of Derbyshire's key visitor attractions, alongside strong political representation.

6. Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 Do nothing. This is not considered an appropriate option as the Derbyshire Cultural Framework was approved at Cabinet on 14 October 2021 (Minute No. 168/21 refers) and access to funding was approved in May 2022. The arts and cultural sectors make an important contribution to the Derbyshire economy and to not follow through and deliver the Implementation Plan would be detrimental to the Council's growth ambitions and community renewal
- 6.2 Review the proposed allocation and focus of the Cultural Recovery Fund. This option has been considered – both in terms of reducing the amount of funding and the proposed areas of focus. However, it is considered the current allocations set out in Appendix 3 represent the most appropriate funding alignment to sustain sector support and growth and maximise the economic potential of arts and culture and enable the Framework objectives to be achieved within a reasonable timeframe.

7. Implications

7.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

8. Background Papers

8.1 Derbyshire Cultural Framework [Cultural framework report \(derbyshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/cultural-framework-report)

8.2 Derbyshire Economic Partnership Economic and Skills Recovery Strategy 2021-2025
<https://www.derbyshireeconomicpartnership.org.uk/business-derbyshire/economic-and-skills-recovery-strategy/economic-and-skills-recovery-strategy.aspx>

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – Implications.

9.2 Appendix 2 - Cultural Framework – 2022-23 Two Year ear Implementation Plan.

9.3 Appendix 3 - Cultural Recovery Fund – Key Funding Streams.

10. Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- a) Approves the transfer of £1.000m from the Covid Recovery Fund Earmarked Reserve and create a new Cultural Recovery Fund Earmarked Reserve.
- b) Seeks Cabinet approval on the proposed focus and allocation of the £1m Cultural Recovery Fund (CuReF), set against the objectives within the Cultural Framework, via 10 targeted funding streams.
- c) Approves the allocation of £415,000 from the CuRe Fund for delivery of MAKEit – The Derbyshire Festival of Making.
- d) Notes the creation of the proposed Grants Team and its role in supporting, administering and monitoring agreed elements of the Culture Recovery Fund, alongside other grant schemes within the remit of the Economy and Regeneration Service.

11. Reason for Recommendation

11.1 The creation of reserve to support delivery of the Cultural Framework Implementation Plan will ensure continued support to arts and cultural organisations and will help ensure continued growth of this valuable sector in Derbyshire's economy.

12. Is it necessary to waive the call in period?

12.1 No.

Report Author: Paul Patterson

Contact details: Paul.Patterson@Derbyshire.gov.uk

Implications

Financial

- 1.1 Allocation of money from the COVID Recovery Fund has previously been approved to support delivery of the Cultural Framework and the transfer of £1m from the Fund will be made to a new Cultural Recovery Fund Earmarked Reserve.
- 1.2 Appendix 3 outlines the 10 targeted funding streams that will be delivered via the Fund and includes an allocation of £415,000 against the delivery of MAKEit – The Derbyshire Festival of Making.

Legal

- 2.1 There are no known no Legal Implications.

Human Resources

- 3.1 The co-ordination and delivery of Cultural Framework will be overseen by existing economic development staff within the Economy and Regeneration Service.
- 3.2 Administration of agreed elements of the CuReF will be delivered by the new Grants Team based within the Economy and Regeneration Service.

Information Technology

- 4.1 There will be no immediate IT implications. Officers will deploy and draw from current grants administration systems that have been set up within the Economic and Regeneration Service for Vision Derbyshire and the Green Entrepreneurs Grant Schemes.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment was carried out by the Economic Development and Regeneration Service as part of the development of the Cultural Framework. The principles agreed within this will be adhered to within the roll out of the CRF. Equality and a consideration for diversity will be embedded within the roll out of the CRF, which will adhere to Council Equalities and Diversity Policy.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

6.1 A prosperous and green Derbyshire objectives are supported by supporting businesses within the cultural, heritage and tourism sectors.

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

7.1 None.