

Subject:	Bacup High Street heritage Action Zone – Cultural Consortium grant	Status:	For publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	16 th June 2021
Report of:	Economic Development and Property Team	Portfolio Holder:	Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required:	No	Attached: No
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1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)
1.1	To note the successful award of £90,000 to the Bacup Cultural Consortium
1.2	To authorise the Monitoring Officer to sign the Grant Funding Agreement with Historic England and enter into a legal agreement with members of the Cultural Consortium CP2 payment certificate and for the Council to act as the Accountable Body for the grant between Historic England and The Horse & Bamboo Theatre (Chair of Bacup Cultural Consortium).
1.3	To authorise the Monitoring Officer to accept the £40,000 grant uplift for the Bacup HS HAZ for public realm professional fees to RIBA stage 3 and all statutory notices, all planning permissions and ready for delivery in year 3 subject to a further uplift and enter into a grant agreement with Historic England.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To update members and agree to authorise entering into legal agreements for local cultural consortia grant and the CP2 grant payment certificate between the Council as Accountable Body and Historic England for £90,000 grant funding for Bacup's Cultural Consortium Cultural Programme. To accept the £40k grant uplift for the public realm professional fees to RIBA stage 3.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Project objectives and governance

In December 2019, the Council approved the second stage submission to Historic England for a High Street Heritage Action Zone (HS HAZ) in Bacup Town centre. Following on from the successful Bacup THI project, the Bacup HS HAZ meets the aims and objectives of the wider Bacup 2040 Vision and Masterplan (Appendix A).

In April 2020 RBC was awarded a grant of £1.085m for delivery of a HS HAZ over 4 years.

The project includes:

- Capital improvements to up 22 properties in the town centre;
- Public Realm enhancements;
- Community engagement and training initiatives;
- A Cultural Consortium and programme of events (subject to a secondary bidding round);
- Opportunities to bid into an uplift grant fund.

The Council has previously delegated authority for spending decisions to the Project Board. The strategic Bacup 2040 Partnership Board has set up a specialist Bacup HS HAZ Board chaired by a Cabinet member to act as the executive for all expenditure project delivery decisions.

3.2 Cultural Consortium

The cultural consortium funding is awarded separately from the main HS HAZ funding as it is linked to the Arts Council. It is only open for successful High Street Heritage Action Zones and the Council with our partners have had to bid on a competitive basis to secure funding.

The Cultural Consortium for Bacup was developed during the initial bidding phase and has been further refined to include a number of voluntary and community organisations such as: Valley Heritage, Mid Pennine Arts, Rossendale Civic Trust, Dansworks, Bacup Pride, Bacup Royal Court Theatre, amongst others. The Cultural Consortium is voluntarily run and is chaired by The Horse and Bamboo Theatre, Waterfoot, as an official Arts Council England National Portfolio organisation.

The funding for the Cultural Programme will be administered by the Council as Accountable Body instead of the lead member of the Cultural Consortium. The Council will distribute funding to partners within the Consortium who are delivering projects or to external partners of the Consortium if appropriate.

This framework reflects the organisation and processes of the wider HS HAZ Programme, and ensures that the financial administration of the grant is not expected of smaller organisations with limited capacity. The Cultural Consortium lead has ensured that there is a clear governance framework of authority (Terms of Reference) and accountability defined within the grant application. This will ensure that the Consortium works compatibly together and that each organisation acknowledges and agrees to their role in achieving the outputs, outcomes and benefits from all projects and programmes which they may undertake as part of the Cultural Programme. As such, funding decisions will be made independently from the main HS HAZ Board and through the consortium panel, in line with guidance from Historic England and independent of the Council.

The Bacup Portfolio Holder and HS HAZ Officer attend meetings to act as a support and monitoring mechanism and the HS HAZ Project Officer will also be accountable for managing the grant funding expenditure for auditing purposes. Funding will be paid according to agreed milestones and an instalment schedule. Payment requests will be made by the lead partner along with satisfactory proof that the associated milestone has been completed with an accompanying highlight report. All grant funding expenditure will be monitored by the Council's Finance team and the HS HAZ Project Officer will seek their approval prior to release of the grant funds.

The key functions and responsibilities of the Bacup Cultural Consortium are:

- To support the delivery of the Bacup 2040 Vision and Masterplan;
- To develop a diverse and engaging arts and culture events programme within Bacup Town Centre;
- To lead on the development of additional funding bids to support the Cultural Programme;
- To enable the integration of the Cultural Programme into the wider High Street

Heritage Action Zone and its aims and objectives;

- To feedback to the Bacup 2040 Vision Partnership Board and the Bacup HS HAZ Project Board.

In mid-2020, the Bacup Cultural Consortium secured £10,000 to deliver a Pilot Grant in response to the Covid 19 pandemic. This project is nearing completion, with delays caused by national and regional/local lockdown. The HS HAZ Project officer drew down the grant from Historic England at 75% and then 25% of the funds. The project has been monitored effectively to ensure it is meeting its aims and objectives, with opportunities for participants to feedback (yet to be completed) and an evaluation upon its close.

In terms of the wider grant funding, the final agreement for local cultural consortia sets out the expectations of Historic England and criteria that the Council must adhere to during the Cultural programme. These criteria include:

- Allocations of funds as per the grant bid;
- Spend profile as per the grant bid;
- Project design as per the grant bid;
- Publicity;
- Procurement (where necessary);
- Grant payment;
- Grant Repayment;
- Monitoring and Evaluation;
- Staffing.

There is no expectation or requirement for the Council to provide or offer any match or additional funding when entering into the CP2 grant agreement with Historic England, or during the lifetime of the Bacup Cultural Consortium Cultural Programme. However, the Council is required to act as the grant recipient and Accountable Body from Historic England following the instalment schedule as set out by Historic England.

The Bacup HS HAZ Project Officer is required to regularly update Historic England through progress reports on the Cultural Programme funding.

Grant Uplift for Public Realm (Union Street)

- 3.3** In March 2021 a submission was made to Historic England for additional grant funding. Part of this submission was for £40,000 to cover the professional fees for a public realm development to RIBA stage 3 (including all statutory notices, all planning permissions and ready for delivery in year 3 subject to a further uplift) for a scheme focussed on Union Street, Bacup. This is in addition to the public realm scheme already approved as part of the HS HAZ £1.085million project budget.

This funding has now been approved by Historic England and subject to acceptance of the same will form part of the original grant offer/agreement.

4. RISK

- 4.1** All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- Discussions with the Monitoring Officer have suggested that in terms of the agreement, the Council should complete a side agreement with the Bacup Cultural Consortium detailing that the Consortium agree to abide by the terms of the grant agreement, that the Consortium will expend the grant on the agreed objectives,

within timescales and that if the Bacup Cultural Consortium breach the situation they will indemnify the Council as Accountable Body.

- The Cultural Consortium do not deliver on the agreed project milestones – it is critical that the HS HAZ Project Officer plays an active role in maintaining project momentum and delivery with a range of key performance indicators set to ensure the Cultural Programme is meeting/exceeding its proposed outputs.
- Possible breakdown in relations between the Council and the Cultural Consortium or within the members of the Cultural Consortium – this is addressed by the Bacup Portfolio Holder and the HS HAZ Project Officer guiding and offering support. The lead of the Consortium is a National Arts Council England recognised body and therefore proactive in engaging with, and working with, a vast range of voluntary and community organisations all of whom have different expectations.
- The Council has financial accountability for the grant and any grant repayments should it be expended and not meet the agreed objectives – clear evidence (physical and electronic) will be recorded prior to any grant being facilitated to the Cultural Consortium – this is for Historic England and The Council auditing purposes.
- Monitoring and a final evaluation will be completed on the project at key stages – during project development, delivery and upon completion and finally upon completion of the full Cultural programme – this is to ensure that the Programme is meeting its aims and objectives and that it is consistent with the wider aims and objectives of the HS HAZ project and also that it is displaying the best value for money.
- That the public realm grant uplift for professional fees will be completed by the end of the 2021/22 financial year and that the project will be required to submit a further grant uplift application to secure the grant to deliver the capital public realm scheme – this is competitive and not guaranteed, however the scheme will have been developed to RIBA 3 with all necessary permissions in place.

5. FINANCE

- 5.1** As outlined in the body of the report the Council will not be required to provide any match funding in relation to this award. It will be responsible as Accountable Body to administer the grant to the consortium member once projects and milestones have been agreed which officers will monitor to ensure compliance with the grant agreement. The grant uplift for the professional fees will be noted within the project financial envelope and monitored against the terms of the agreement.

6. LEGAL

- 6.1** The Council will ensure that all necessary legal agreements are entered into between the parties to provide good governance and indemnity to the Council acting as Accountable Body. The agreements will be closely monitored for compliance to ensure that the terms of the grant funding are not breached. Officers will provide close checks and balances against the funding criteria to ensure all funding is in line with the criteria and that milestones are met in a timely and appropriate manner.

7. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** If successful the funding will support the Council's Corporate Priorities and adopted 2018 Economic Development Strategy. There are no equalities implications.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1** To sign and submit all of the required documents for Historic England to begin the grant draw down process and Cultural Programme delivery. To accept the grant uplift of

£40,000 for public realm professional fees.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Appendix A	Online: Item C4: https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/1183/council