



CITY DEAL

Preston, South Ribble & Lancashire

CITY DEAL EXECUTIVE AND STEWARDSHIP BOARD

Private and Confidential: No

Date: Thursday, 16 August 2018

New Project Proposal - Re-Imagining the Harris Project
(Appendix 'A' refers)

Report Author:

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Executive Summary

Preston City Council is seeking financial support from the City Deal in order to enable a Heritage Lottery Fund Stage 1 application to be submitted which will enable a transformative capital project of £10.5 million for the Harris to be delivered. The project has been scoped and high level designs are being worked up. Funding has been secured from Preston City Council and two local heritage trusts. A Cabinet paper is going to the Lancashire County Council Cabinet on 9th August 2018 to request £1m funding.

This proposal requests the City Deal Executive and Stewardship Board to consider allocating £1 million from the Community Infrastructure Fund towards the project. It is acknowledged that to draw down significant sums of funding in advance of income being received could cause potential cash flow difficulties for the City Deal and Lancashire County Council as Accountable Body. It is therefore proposed that until the Community Infrastructure Fund is adequately funded, the City Council foregoes community provision payments due, to the equivalent amount, to ease the cash flow position. The City Council would request a reimbursement over the life cycle of the City Deal and it is requested that this is guaranteed through a legally binding agreement.

The application for Heritage Lottery Funding is for £4.5 million and needs to be submitted on 16th August 2018. This report highlights that the project is on track to achieve the Re-Imagining the Harris Programme Board's agreed milestones within the planning phase of the total Programme schedule of work.

This report provides an update on progress to date from the commencement of the Re-Imagining of the Harris Capital project, February 2018 to the end of July 2018.



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Recommendation

The City Deal Executive and Stewardship Board is asked to approve the funding proposal as outlined above to enable the project to move forward as planned.

Background and Advice

The original proposal (May 2018) is attached at Appendix 'A' and provides information on what the project is planning to achieve. A summary is provided below:-

Preston City Council and Lancashire County Council have a shared ambition to maximise the potential offered by the iconic Harris Museum, Art Gallery and Library in Preston. The Councils want to reposition the Harris, ensuring that it becomes a cultural and community hub for the County. Both Councils have worked together since 2015 to set up the Re-Imagining the Harris partnership.

The aim is to create a sustainable and democratic high quality hub at the Harris, which is constantly refreshed and provides a community led museum, art gallery, library services and cultural activities which are delivered in a truly joined up way.

The unique opportunities provided by the Harris, as an iconic Grade 1 listed building and civic focal point for the City, housing a library, museum and art gallery, with an excellent range of collections need to be effectively utilised. The project will build on the concepts of a 21st century museum and library creating an animated cultural and community hub for the people of Preston with a diversified range of income sources. Support from City Deal would help enable the Harris to unlock further investment from funders such as the Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver a circa £10million scheme which would enable the Harris to become a focal point for the wider regeneration of Preston's city centre; working in partnership with the University of Central Lancashire to create a flagship city centre presence for the University as part of the redevelopment.

The Harris must also become a more sustainable service. At a time when the Councils are facing considerable financial challenges, it is significant that both have identified the Harris as a strategic priority and ring-fenced capital investment. The project will enable the Harris to develop its commercial services, including improved shop, café and facilities for corporate events and business meetings.

UPDATE ON KEY IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

The table below sets out the more significant issues that are being prioritised in the Programme in order to appropriately manage risk. Some of the issues have previously been reported on and an update on the current position is provided.



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Issues and Risks	Value to the Programme	Latest Position
<p>Securing the necessary funding to deliver the project</p> <p>Ensuring the project is delivered within the identified budget</p> <p>Objections to the planned changes by the local community</p> <p>Structural integrity of existing building structure requiring greater review than expected causing delays to the scheme and a re-think to the design.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Funding already secured from local partners, other bids in place and Fundraising Strategy in final draft. ■ A detailed budget estimate is being produced based on the specific scheme proposals in relation to alterations and new work and built up from specific detailed reports and schedules previously commissioned relating to the scope and costs of specific essential repairs and maintenance items. ■ Consultation with local communities already started ■ Structural surveys have already taken place and have identified the main areas of concern.

List of Background Papers

Paper

Date

Contact/Tel

None



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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A