
Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission

**Museum Service's National Portfolio Organisation
Programme 2023/24 funded by Arts Council England**

24th October 2023

Lead director/officer: Mike Dalzell

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All.
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- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

1.1 This briefing provides an overview of the museum service's National Portfolio Organisation programme which is funded by Arts Council England

2. Recommended actions/decision

2.1 To note and comment on the programme and the impact which it is making.

3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

3.1 The programme is designed to involve local communities and is being co-produced with local communities. The museum service is working in partnership with several Leicester City Council services and departments, including Neighbourhood Services and Education.

4. Background and options with supporting evidence

4.1 Leicester City Council's museums service has been awarded £1.2m in total by Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation for the period 2023-26. The funding supports posts and activities which will increase access to museums and collections.

5. A presentation about the 2023/24 activity programme accompanies this report.

6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

6.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Stuart McAvoy – Head of Finance

6.2 Legal implications

It is noted that £1.2m has been awarded by Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation for the period 2023-26. There is little detail relating to how this will be spent but in the event there are any external purchases then the Contract Procedure Rules and Public Contract Regulations 2015 will need to be complied with (where required). Legal and Procurement can support where required.

If any funding is to be paid by way of grant Legal can support with required agreements being put in place but also support compliance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022, should it apply.

Alex Powers, Solicitor (Commercial).

6.3 Equalities implications

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions, they have a duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

- Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

Museums can increase our sense of wellbeing, help us feel proud of where we have come from, can inspire, challenge and stimulate us, and make us feel healthier.

They can also enhance everyone's life chances by breaking down barriers to access and inclusion. Museums are doing this through active public participation, engaging with diverse communities, and sharing collections and knowledge. The programme is designed to involve local communities and is being co-produced with local communities. Posts and activities that increase access to museums and collections should lead to positive impacts for people from across all protected characteristics. The programme supports the council in meeting its equalities duties by seeking to remove or reduce disadvantages experienced by people in relation to a protected characteristic or in relation to their socioeconomic status, and by encouraging people who are underrepresented to participate in arts, culture and heritage activities.

Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, Ext 37 4148

6.4 Climate Emergency implications

Leicester City Council has declared a climate emergency and set a target to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Engagement with city residents is a vital part of the council's efforts in working towards this ambition and encouraging action on climate change across

Leicester. As detailed in this report the 2023/24 programme includes a project directly addressing this, through the development of a new climate change gallery at Leicester Museum & Art Gallery, which will have a positive impact through directly supporting the council's Climate Emergency Strategy. As part of this piece of work consultation has been carried out with the council's Sustainability service to inform the development of this project. More widely, as project delivery generally contributes to the council's carbon emissions, any impacts can be managed through measures such as encouraging sustainable staff travel behaviours, using buildings efficiently and following sustainable procurement guidance, as applicable to the programme.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

6.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

None

7. Background information and other papers:

A presentation accompanies this report.

8. Summary of appendices:

9. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

10. Is this a "key decision"? If so, why?

No