

Executive Decision Report

COVID Recovery

Decision to be taken by: Deputy City Mayor, Culture
Leisure Sport and Regulatory Services

Decision to be taken on: 1 December 2021

Lead director: Mike Dalzell



City Mayor

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: Castle ■ Report author: Mike Dalzell
- Author contact details: 37 2931
- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

- 1.1 Responding to the disruption and damage cause by COVID 19 this report seeks approval for £370,000 to deliver interventions that can support economic recovery and grow the cultural and creative economy in the city.

2. Recommendation

The City Mayor is asked to:

- 2.1 Approve additional budget of up to £370,000 to enable the delivery of interventions that can support economic recovery and grow the cultural and creative economy in the city. To be funded from the money set aside to support COVID recovery.

3. Background and Supporting information

- 3.1 The city council published an economic recovery plan in November 2020. Since then work has been ongoing to deliver it and develop a longer term strategy. In recent months the council has committed financial support to enable the Phoenix 2020 and Cathedral capital schemes to proceed; to underpin Christmas activities and to animate the city centre via a 'summer in the city' programme.
- 3.2 Funds have also been drawn from central government to deliver the 'We've Missed You' campaign and from the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership for place marketing initiatives such as the 'Uncover the Story' visitor economy campaign. This report proposes further measures to support the city economy to accelerate recovery and enable delivery of the 2020 plan. These are
- 3.3 Big City Challenges : £30,000 for work with local partners, including both universities to support research and new thinking into major economic, social and environmental challenges facing the city including how to support more 'green jobs' in the local economy.
- 3.4 Cultural and Creative Economy Support : £125,000 to i) support feasibility studies for capital projects that could be included in future Cultural Development Fund programmes, ii) commission a longer term city vision for growing the cultural and creative industries sector iii) support the creation of a new archive celebrating the contribution of communities from the African and African Caribbean Diaspora to Leicester and the East Midlands.

- 3.5 Animating the City : £ 150,000. Building on the success of the summer in the city programme, it is intended to support a similar approach in 2022 and other key activities that will animate the city and draw in residents and visitors
- 3.6 Attracting Investment : £65,000. As part of the work to develop a longer term city growth plan the council will commission a new interactive ‘fly-through’ to highlight opportunities for potential investors and developers and support other initiatives to attract investment and drive business recovery.

4. Details of Scrutiny

The economic recovery plan was published in November 2020 and updates have been provided to the EDTCE scrutiny commission in March, June and August 2021.

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

This report seeks an additional £370,000 of revenue funding to support economic recovery in the City.

The funding will support a number of schemes aimed at promoting the City over the current and next financial year.

The additional budget will be funded from the money set aside for COVID recovery.

Amy Oliver, Head of Finance, ext. 37 5667

5.2 Legal implications

The proposed funding will need to be assessed against subsidy control (formerly known as state aid), similar to the former state aid position there are exceptions under the subsidy control regime which applies to the audio/visual sector though a full analysis of this will be required therefore legal advice and assistance sought. The proposed funding will need to also be underpinned by a legal funding agreement between the parties, such an agreement can be drafted to include clawback provisions to protect the Authority in recouping sums where the scheme is no longer required to be delivered. Legal services should be instructed in this respect.

Ongoing legal advice should be sought as required.

Mannah Begum, Principal Solicitor, Commercial Team, ext. 1423

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

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5.3.1 Equality Implications

None arising from this decision

Surinder Singh, Equalities Officer, Ext 37 4148

5.3.2 Climate Change Implications

None arising from this decision

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

6. Background information and other papers:

None

7. Summary of appendices:

None

8. 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)?

No

9. Is this a “key decision”?

No

10. If a key decision please explain reason

Not applicable