

<b>Board/Committee:</b>	P & O BOARD
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	26 SEPTEMBER 2018
<b>Title:</b>	FUNDING REQUEST FOR THE GOSPORT HERITAGE MUSEUM AND GALLERY PROJECT – OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL BUILDING, HIGH STREET, GOSPORT
<b>Author:</b>	HEAD OF PLANNING & REGENERATION
<b>Status:</b>	FOR DECISION

## **PURPOSE**

To request funding in support of a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Bid by the Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT) for the implementation of a development project at the former Grammar School Building in Gosport High Street.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- i) that the Council endorses the Round 1 bid to the HLF by the HCT in the sum of £950,300 towards an overall £2,090,300 project to develop the Old Grammar School into a multi-purpose cultural hub, noting that the requested financial commitment from GBC should the full scheme bid be approved, is a capital contribution of £100,000 in total;
- ii) that the Borough Treasurer advises that whilst the overall Capital Resources and associated Capital Programme has yet to be revised for the current year and proposed for 2019/20 onwards, a future capital commitment of £80,000 (see recommendation 3 below) is expected to be affordable within the capital resources available to the Council after taking account of all other known essential capital investment requirements;
- iii) that the P & O Board approve an allocation of the initial £20,000 (of the total £100,000 commitment) towards the Round 1 bid, to be funded from within the overall Board budget;
- iv) that the Council supports a separate application to be made to the Coastal Communities Fund by the HCT in 2019 for up to £250,000 towards the Old Grammar School project in advance of the Round 2 HLF application;
- v) that the Council confirms the continuation of the current 3

year rolling agreement to provide £60,000 per annum grant funding to the Trust for delivering cultural heritage activities in Gosport and looking after the GBC museum collections, subject to regular review of the annual delivery plan and the activities undertaken by the Joint Member Committee.

## **1.0 Background and Vision**

1.1 The Old Grammar School Building is located at the western end of Gosport High Street. The building is owned by HCC and is a Listed Heritage Asset of great local significance. The existing cultural and education facilities are currently fragmented, outdated and are not easily accessible by the intended users due to the current layout of the building. Some of the facilities and resource provided by Hampshire Country Council Libraries have also recently transferred across into the Discovery Centre.

1.2 Earlier this year, the Hampshire Cultural Trust approached the Council with draft proposals to develop the Old Grammar School building as a multi-purpose cultural hub.

1.3 The vision for the project is to turn the building into a place that provides both cultural and heritage opportunities for local communities and which also supports the development of skills and learning useful to young people in obtaining employment. It is intended that the proposals will provide improved access to a wider range of facilities that will include a museum focussed on local heritage and a community gallery that are fit for purpose sitting alongside modern education and training facilities. The overall aims of the project are to:-

- inspire local people through opportunities to engage with heritage
- offer a sense of place through a building of local cultural heritage significance
- contribute to the development of skills, learning and well-being

1.4 The Adopted Gosport Waterfront and Town Centre SPD (March 2018) recognises the opportunity to develop a cultural quarter in conjunction with the Discovery Centre primarily using the Old Grammar School for increased art space.

## **2.0 Proposals**

2.1 No structural changes to the building are proposed. The gallery, museum, education and training spaces (including SEARCH), office, conference and library facilities would all be upgraded to support an increased programme of activities along with the provision of a

permanent play gallery to help families relate to the exhibitions and museum programme. The changes would improve the current offer to schools, increasing capacity for community led programmes

- 2.2 There would be new hard and soft courtyard landscaping and an enclosed link between the frontage building and rear wing with a new external fire escape stair. A café and small retail area selling arts and crafts and souvenirs is proposed within the frontage building with improved entrance arrangements facing onto the High Street. Some outdoor seating may also be provided associated with the café use. Artist's studios would be offered for rent on the first floor and new WCs would be provided.
- 2.3 HCT would employ two members of staff for the project, a community manager and a community programme co-ordinator, to develop and deliver the activity plan.

### **3.0 Outcomes**

- 3.1 The intended outcomes of the project are to:-
- Offer new learning and skills development opportunities to grow participation in cultural activities and heritage based learning
  - Reinforce and develop community identity, belonging, distinctiveness and local pride through the use of culture and heritage
  - Protect and sustain an attractive and important local heritage asset
  - Develop and support the use of a cohort of volunteers
  - Develop a stronger heritage and cultural offer to attract visitors, changing the heritage and cultural profile of Gosport.

### **4.0 Proposed Funding**

- 4.1 The overall total cost of the Project is anticipated to be £2,090,300. A Round 1 bid for heritage lottery funding for £950,300 in total has been submitted by the Trust. £250,000 in total has been requested from HCC, along with £100,000 from GBC. The proposed contribution by the Trust is £200,000. Hampshire County Council has also offered the services of the design team and project managers as a benefit in kind to the project. An application for £250,000 additional grant funding (subject to change depending on success of other funding) is also to be submitted to the Coastal Communities Fund by the Trust. A detailed breakdown of the costs and funding amounts required at

both the development and delivery phases of the project are set out in Appendices 'A' and 'B' respectively, noting that a contribution of £20,000 has been requested from the Council at the development phase.

4.2 The outcome of the Round 1 funding application will be known by November 2018. It is anticipated that the development phase would take place between January and December 2019 with construction and delivery taking place in quarters 1-3 2020/21.

4.3 Subject to securing the required funding, the project will be delivered by a partnership between Hampshire Cultural Trust, Hampshire County Council and Gosport Borough Council. All parties will monitor and evaluate the project.

## **5.0 Risk Assessment**

5.1 The project will not progress if the bid is unsuccessful and sufficient funding is not successfully obtained. If the bid is unsuccessful at Stage 2 the monies provided at the development phase by all parties would be lost, including the £20,000 from this Council. If the project is not implemented this could have future implications for the future use and condition of the building due to costs associated with its upkeep.

## **6.0 Conclusion**

6.1 The Old Grammar School Building and the services that it provides are valued by the local community. If the project does come to fruition, it will enhance the existing community facilities and activity at the western end of the High Street. Securing the long term use of the building will also help to preserve this important heritage asset and bring about both social and economic benefits to the town.

<b>Financial Services comments:</b>	Contained within the report.
<b>Legal Implications:</b>	There may be legally binding documentation to be entered into in due course as a result of the proposals which could commit all signatories, including the Council, to specific terms and conditions.
<b>Equality and Diversity</b>	The proposals will improve access and movement around the building and enable a wider section of the community to access an enhanced range of

	cultural and heritage based facilities.
<b>Corporate Plan:</b>	The principle of enhancing the facilities in the town centre and waterfront area is embodied in the Gosport Borough Local Plan and the Waterfront and Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document. This is a key proposal that will help draw members of the public to the High Street and improve both the cultural and heritage facilities available to both targeted groups and the wider community.
<b>Risk Assessment:</b>	See Para 5.0
<b>Background papers:</b>	Nil
<b>Appendices/Enclosures</b>	Appendix 'A' - Project Costs Appendix 'B' - Funding requirements
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