

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	4277
Author:	Terry Cooper
Department:	Resident Services
Contact:	Terry Cooper (Job Title: Business Performance Director, Email: terry.cooper@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 0115 9895504)
Subject:	Acceptance of Grant Funding from the Arts Council England Cultural Recovery Fund Round 2
Total Value:	£425,000 (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	To accept grant funding of £425,000 from the Arts Council England Cultural Recovery Fund Round 2. The fund forms part of the £1.57billion announced by the Government to support the Arts and Culture sector through the Covid-19 pandemic. The Theatre Royal and Royal Concert Hall (TRCH) management team submitted an application to the scheme and have been successful in securing all of the £425,000 requested.
Reasons for the Decision(s)	The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in the closure of TRCH since March 2020. The 2021/22 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) includes £1.587million of additional temporary funding in recognition of the financial impact of the pandemic, based on assumptions at the time of preparing the refreshed MTFP. Following announcement of the Government's 4-step Road Map, which outlined indicative dates for re-opening, the financial impact of the pandemic will be reassessed and included in the Council's financial reporting as restrictions are eased and services re-open. Application to the Cultural Recovery Fund is intended to support TRCH in making the venue Covid-secure for a restart scenario, underwriting a socially-distanced programme of events and mitigating some of the budget pressure created through closure. This bid for funding is in addition to the financial support sought from the Job Retention Scheme and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government Lost Income Scheme that the Council are also applying for, and these have been factored into the bid submitted to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).
Other Options Considered:	To reject the funding offer: this will remove a significant mitigation of a budget pressure as TRCH looks to make the venue Covid-secure for future restart scenarios, so this option is rejected.
Background Papers:	The funding offer letter and the associated Terms and Conditions.

Unpublished background papers:	CRF2 Offer Letter.pdf, CRF2 Terms and Conditions.pdf
Published Works:	None
Affected Wards:	Hyson Green and Arboretum
Colleague / Councillor Interests:	None
Consultations:	Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.
Crime and Disorder Implications:	There are no crime and disorder implications arising as a result of this decision.
Equality:	EIA not required. Reasons: The decision does not represent proposals for a new or changing policy, service or function.
Decision Type:	Portfolio Holder
Subject to Call In:	No
	Person Consulted: Not applicable
	Consultation Date: 15/07/2021
	This decision was taken by the Portfolio Holder on 11 June 2021. Due to a system error, the decision was not published at the point of being authorised. This decision is now retrospective at the point of publication, and so is not subject to call-in.
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance

Legal Advice:

In order to accept the grant funding from the Arts Council England (ACE), the Council is required to enter into a legally binding Grant Agreement that sets out terms and conditions with which the Council must comply in order to receive the funding. Any breach of the grant conditions could result in the grant funding being clawed back, suspended or future instalments being stopped. Government also reserves the right to reduce the amount of the grant (no default required by the Council). Future instalments of the grant are only guaranteed as long as funds from the Government are available and Government reserves the right to impose additional terms and conditions after the grant agreement has been entered into.

If goods and/or services are bought with the grant funding, the Council must comply with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 when procuring such goods and/or services.

Advice provided by Sarah O'Bradaigh (Senior Solicitor) on 08/04/2021.

Finance Advice:

This decision seeks approval to accept grant funding of £425,000 in respect of financial support for the Theatre Royal and Concert Hall (TRCH) during the continuing closure in financial year 2021/22, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Budget Manager is required to provide financial and other performance data to Arts Council England and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) as a condition of the grant award - in particular the final report due on 30 June 2021 to secure the final grant payment. As a result, the Budget Manager will need to put in place appropriate measures to ensure compliance to the grant conditions and to avoid clawback in grant funding.

The 2021/22 medium-term financial plan includes £1.587million additional temporary funding to address lost income during the closure of the TRCH, and the time required to achieve sustainable ticket sales to host performances as part of the reinstatement of services. This grant funding will support the additional measures necessary to make the site Covid-secure and provide customer confidence in buying and returning to events and shows at the TRCH.

Advice provided by Maria Balchin (Finance Analyst) on 19/04/2021.

Signatures

Eunice Campbell-Clark (Portfolio Holder Leisure, Culture and Schools)
SIGNED and Dated: 11/06/2021
David Murray (Interim Corporate Director Resident Services)
SIGNED and Dated: 28/05/2021