

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

Reference Number:

4711

Author:

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Department:

Resident Services

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Subject:

Arts Council England Capital Investment Programme - Connect Culture: Nottingham City Libraries Inclusive, Immersive

Total Value:

£195,900 (Type: Capital)

Decision Being Taken:

1) To approve the acceptance of £185,900 in funding from the Arts Council England's (ACE) Capital Investment Programme, originating from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund.2) To approve the expenditure of the ACE funding to deliver the 'Connect Culture: Nottingham City Libraries Inclusive, Immersive' project, with a further investment of matched Council funding valued at £10,000 (made of up £5,000 in expenditure from the Libraries IT budget and £5,000 from an in-kind contribution of staffing resource time, in accordance with the Council's Procurement processes and in line with the ACE grant's Teams and Conditions.3) To delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Resident Services to go out to tender as required for the delivery of the project, and to award the appropriate contracts to the successful bidder(s).

**Reasons for the Decision(s)**

The ACE's Capital Investment Programme offers investment to strengthen public sector and charitable organisation's cultural infrastructure and support for recovery following the Coronavirus pandemic, to give communities a greater opportunity to enjoy and participate in high-quality cultural experiences. For this project, the Libraries Service has focused on expanding libraries' cultural offer within the community libraries of St Ann's Valley and Strelley Road, both of which are within areas of high socio-economic deprivation. The project will involve the purchase and installation of a bespoke 'cine digital system' in each of the two named libraries. This system is a large, floor-standing structure made up of 3 connected digital screens that will provide interactive and immersive digital content for audience engagement. The project will also require the purchase of IT infrastructure, hardware (such as a 360 degree camera), intellectual property licences and software to support the cine digital system, and content production for the duration of the project and beyond. As part of this project, the Service will create a bank of digital immersive content with local partners and schedule a long-term programme of events with partners for the duration of the project term, and establish a future and sustainable content delivery plan. The interactive digital platform will present both libraries with content created by local and wider cultural partners, and will allow adults and children greater access to, and engagement with, cultural experiences in the heart of the City's communities. The project will be supported by a focused marketing campaign to ensure maximum awareness of the offer. Project activation must start between April and September 2022 and be completed by March 2025, under the funding conditions. An example of the benefits this project will bring is to help reduce digital and cultural isolation within the City's more deprived and low socio-economic communities. This project will support increased collaboration opportunities across cultural partners to help develop and extend both their, and libraries', cultural offer, resulting in a greater access to and engagement with cultural experiences in the City's outer communities.

**Other Options Considered:**

To not accept the ACE funding: this option is rejected because the project will support increased collaboration opportunities across cultural partners to help develop and extend both their, and libraries', cultural offer, resulting in a greater access to and engagement with cultural experiences in the City's outer communities.

**Background Papers:**

None

**Published Works:**

None

<b>Affected Wards:</b>	Aspley, Bilborough, St Ann's
<b>Colleague / Councillor Interests:</b>	None
<b>Consultations:</b>	Date: 09/05/2022
	Other City Council Bodies:Officer Group Capital Board Group
	Approval given to proceed.
	Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.
<b>Crime and Disorder Implications:</b>	This will have no impact on crime and disorder. The equipment will be located within internal library buildings and securely fixed or managed by Library staff.
<b>Equality:</b>	Please login to the system to view the EIA document: eia-2021-form-2 - Final.docx
<b>Social Value Considerations:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Any implications affecting IT:</b>	Yes
<b>Relates to Council Property Assets:</b>	Yes
<b>Relates to Building Services:</b>	Yes
<b>Decision Type:</b>	Portfolio Holder
<b>Subject to Call In:</b>	Yes
<b>Call In Expiry date:</b>	14/09/2022
<b>Advice Sought:</b>	Legal, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources, Equality and Diversity, IT, Property, Building Services

**Legal Advice:**

This decision seeks approval to accept Arts Council England (ACE) funding of £185,900 by the Council for the delivery of improvements in accordance with the Council's Procurement processes and in line with the ACE grant funding Terms and Conditions and delegation, where required, to the Corporate Director for Resident Services to go to tender and award contracts to the successful bidder(s). The Council must ensure it uses the funding in accordance with the details in the funding application and the terms and conditions imposed by ACE, in particular complying with any reporting requirements on use of funds. The use of the funding with third-party providers should be in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and should seek to ensure the Council's ownership or ability to use resource is maximised, including either owning intellectual property rights or having the broadest possible licence terms. Arrangements with third-party providers should also allow the Council to comply fully with the ACE requirements.

Advice provided by Anthony Heath (Senior Solicitor) on 18/07/2022.

**Finance Advice:**

See attached document.

Advice provided by Maria Balchin (Finance Analyst) on 19/07/2022.

Advice documents: ACE Capital Investmt Connect Culture finance comments.docx

**Procurement Advice:**

The decision to receive the funding raises no procurement concerns and the decision to spend the money raises no concerns as long as the Arts Council England terms of funding and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules are complied with.

Advice provided by Paul Ritchie (Procurement Manager) on 18/07/2022.

**HR Advice:**

There is no intention to create or amend posts with the Arts Council England funding and, therefore, there are not anticipated staffing implications. Libraries colleagues will receive training on how to turn the new equipment on and off, and be expected to identify any misuse of the equipment by service users. However, this falls within the remit of their existing job descriptions.

Advice provided by Emily Jones (HR Consultant) on 05/07/2022.

**Equality and Diversity Advice:**

The Equality Impact Assessment has been reviewed and there are no impacts to any of the protected characteristics.

Advice provided by Rosey Donovan (Equality and Employability Consultant) on 04/07/2022.

**IT Advice:**

The IT Service support the proposals made within this delegated decision. The IT Service will support colleagues within the Libraries Service in the implementation of the new service on its usual project basis, including the development of a sustainable Technical Design that is robust and conforms to the Council's standards. The Libraries Service will need to be mindful of the need to allow budget for replacement of equipment and associated services after its initial acquisition.

Advice provided by Paul J. Burrows (IT Change, Projects and Strategy Manager) on 07/07/2022.

**Property Advice:**

Property support this initiative as no major structural works are required. Costs for additional power and data required have been factored into the project budget. The 'cine digital system' is a freestanding structure and does not require any other building alternations. Libraries will need to ensure ongoing revenue budget provision following the end of the Arts Council England (ACE) funding for repair and maintenance. The Project Officer will need to ensure compliance to the ACE grant conditions to avoid a clawback of grant.

Advice provided by Christine Read (Property Business Partner) on 27/07/2022.

**Building Services Advice:**

Building Services support the proposals made within this delegated decision. Libraries have confirmed that the Service is not expecting any additional charges outside of the maintenance budget / contingency. The equipment will remain in place beyond the project term and provision has been made as part of the funding to ensure longer-term sustainability.

Advice provided by Trevor Bone (Property Maintenance Manager) on 25/07/2022.

**Signatures**

Pavlos Kotsonis (Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Planning)
SIGNED and Dated: 05/09/2022
Frank Jordan (Corporate Director, Resident Services)
SIGNED and Dated: 05/09/2022