

Arts Council England – Museums, Estate and Repair (MEND) fund

This decision seeks approval to accept grant funding and to incur expenditure in respect of the successful bid from the Arts Council England (ACE) Museums, Estate and Repair (MEND) fund.

The grant award is £469,992. The funds will be used to address the backlog of repairs for Wollaton Hall. This work will ensure the building is wind and watertight, and is safe and open for visitors.

Without this funding and works taking place, the Council may:

- Need to incur costs for reactive repairs and address any damage from water ingress into the building and contents within the building;
- Could have to put in place additional measures to ensure the site is safe for visitors;
- Limit exhibitions and visitors into the building and site. This would have an adverse effect on the service meeting the MTFP budgeted income targets in respect of tours, visits, hires (weddings, corporate), retail and catering offer.

The total project cost is £494,729, and the ACE grant award of £469,992 equates to 95% of the total cost, with the balance to be covered from other match funding of £24,737 (5%). The Council's match funding is expected to be resourced from external grant awarded to the Council (subject to internal approval). Therefore this project will be affordable. Bearing in mind the Council's current MTFP position, this cost is eligible to proceed, as resources are required from the Council's General Fund, and this expenditure is expected to mitigate cost pressures in the short to medium term. The programme of works will take place over 3 financial years. The project manager will need to closely monitor transactions and ensure the total cost remains affordable within the funding envelope. At a time of higher inflation than has been seen in recent years, the spending plan includes contingency of approx 16.4% to mitigate the risks of prices increases and reflect the work to take place during 2023/24 and 2025/26 inclusive.

The project manager will need to comply with the grant conditions outlined in the ACE offer letter to the Council. This includes submission of an activity report and other performance information. This is necessary to avoid clawback of grant funding or reputational damage.

Maria Balchin

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