

Report to:	EXECUTIVE
Decision Number:	EX30/2015
Relevant Officer:	Belinda Betts, Blackpool Museum Project Director
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	20 th July 2015

CONFIRMATION OF BLACKPOOL COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR DELIVERY PHASE OF MUSEUM PROJECT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the approval of Blackpool Council's financial contribution to the delivery phase of the Museum for Blackpool Project

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 That £2,000,000 is formally approved as Blackpool Council's contribution to the delivery phase of the Museum for Blackpool project and the project update and next steps are noted.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) committed in principal a total of £13.7million to this project on the basis of matched funding from the project sponsor organisation. Part of the assessment criteria for the Heritage Lottery Fund is value for money and the financial contribution of the applicant. Advice was sought from Heritage Lottery Fund during the preparation of the Round 1 application to ascertain the level of contribution which would be expected for a project of this scale. If this contribution were to be reduced it could have a detrimental effect on the Round 2 decision. The formal approval of this contribution is now required in advance of the Round 2 Heritage Lottery Fund application being made.

In addition work is now progressing on other funding bids as the Project Board works closely with fundraising consultants and look to target a number of trusts and foundations. For all of these funding sources the confirmation of the Council's financial contribution will add weight to the bids and increase their chances of success. Consequently it makes sense to formally approve the Council's contribution now.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

There are no alternative options. Without this level of commitment from Blackpool Council the Round 2 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund is very unlikely to succeed.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

“Expand and promote our tourism, arts, heritage and cultural offer “

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The purpose of this decision paper is for the Executive to formally approve Blackpool Council's financial contribution of £2 million towards the delivery phase of the Museum for Blackpool project.

5.2 During the preparation of the Round 1 Heritage Lottery Fund a match fundraising plan was prepared. This was written on the basis of a realistic assessment of potential funding sources and with support and guidance from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

5.3 Part of the assessment criteria which Heritage Lottery Fund makes on all applications relates to value for money and the financial contribution of the applicant. As a result a cash contribution of £2 million by Blackpool Council to the Delivery Phase of the Museum for Blackpool project was included in the Round 1 submission. This was discussed and agreed by the Project Board. An earmarked reserve of £2m was established on the 23rd October 2014 following a comprehensive review of all the Council's earmarked reserves that enabled the Council to ringfence and protect its funding contribution to this project. This decision was made in the knowledge of the current financial constraints being felt by local authorities, whilst also demonstrating a major commitment to the museum project by Blackpool Council. The formal approval of this contribution is now required in advance of the Round 2 Heritage Lottery Fund application being made.

5.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.5 List of Appendices:

None

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 If the Round 2 application is successful, Blackpool Council will be required to accept the Heritage Lottery Fund's standard terms of grant. These include, for example, project monitoring, procurement, publicity and grant acknowledgement arrangements. These terms will be considered with advice from the Council's Legal Services team.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 If the Round 2 application is successful approximately eighty (FTE) new jobs will be created. The detail of the staffing structure is still to be finalised, but will include a visitor services team, a curatorial team, a facilities team and a management team. These will be recruited throughout the delivery phase, with a large proportion being recruited in the final build up to the museum opening, currently scheduled for 2018. In addition there are a number of internships, apprenticeships and volunteer opportunities which will be created. The Project Director will work with the Human Resources Team to establish and recruit to these posts in line with the Council's Human Resources and Equalities policies. There is an ambition to recruit 80% of the museum staff locally.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None save those outlined above in the Human Resources section above.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 The necessity for and size of the Council contribution was discussed and agreed with the Director of Places and the Project Board during the preparation of the Round 1 application. The current development phase of the project will end once the Round 2 Heritage Lottery application is submitted. If the current timetable is adhered to this will be in February 2016 with a Heritage Lottery Fund round 2 decision expected in May 2016.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 A requirement of the Round 2 application is a detailed risk assessment. This will be prepared with assistance from the Council's Risk Management Team. The risk

assessment will be monitored throughout the project by the Project Director and the Project Manager. It will also be scrutinised by the Project Board and at the Heritage Lottery Fund monitoring meetings.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None on this specific matter, although there is a community engagement programme which has consulted with over 2,500 people with additional activities and events planned including a major consultation event which will be held in the Winter Gardens over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None

14.0 Key decision information:

14.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 10/2015

14.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

14.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

15.0 Call-in information:

15.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

15.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

16.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed: N/A

Date approved: N/A

17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

17.1 None

18.0 Executive decision:

18.1 The Executive agreed the recommendation as outlined above namely:

That £2,000,000 is formally approved as Blackpool Council's contribution to the delivery phase of the Museum for Blackpool project and the project update and next steps are noted.

18.2 Date of Decision:

20th July 2015

19.0 Reason(s) for decision:

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) committed in principal a total of £13.7million to this project on the basis of matched funding from the project sponsor organisation. Part of the assessment criteria for the Heritage Lottery Fund is value for money and the financial contribution of the applicant. Advice was sought from Heritage Lottery Fund during the preparation of the Round 1 application to ascertain the level of contribution which would be expected for a project of this scale. If this contribution were to be reduced it could have a detrimental effect on the Round 2 decision. The formal approval of this contribution is now required in advance of the Round 2 Heritage Lottery Fund application being made.

In addition work is now progressing on other funding bids as the Project Board works closely with fundraising consultants and look to target a number of trusts and foundations. For all of these funding sources the confirmation of the Council's financial contribution will add weight to the bids and increase their chances of success. Consequently it makes sense to formally approve the Council's contribution now.

19.1 Date Decision published:

21st July 2015

20.0 Executive Members in attendance:

20.1 Councillor Blackburn, in the Chair

Councillors Cain, Collett, Jackson, Jones, Kirkland, Smith, I Taylor and Mrs Wright

21.0 Call-in:

21.1

22.0 Notes:

22.1