

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	6 November 2019
Subject:	Contribution to Gloucester Cathedral Project Pilgrim: Phase 2		
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy		
Wards Affected:	Westgate Ward (and all other Wards indirectly)		
Key Decision:	Yes	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
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Appendix:	1. Summary of the Project Pilgrim Phase 2: Reveal to Sustain, (taken from National Lottery Heritage Fund Expression of Interest)		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To approve a contribution of £150,000 to Gloucester Cathedral split equally between the financial years of 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23. The contribution would provide match funding towards a bid by the Cathedral to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for the implementation of Phase 2 of *Project Pilgrim*, securing the further refurbishment of the internal and external environment of the Cathedral and continuing to play a lead role in the heritage-led regeneration of Gloucester.
- 1.2 The contribution would be subject to the Cathedral securing the necessary funding from the NLHF. An Expression of Interest for funding up to £8.39m has been submitted to that effect.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that:

- (1) subject to the Gloucester Cathedral securing funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, it be approved that the City Council contributes £150,000 over three years from 1 April 2020 to Gloucester Cathedral towards the *Project Pilgrim Phase 2: Reveal to Sustain* project, and
- (2) authority be delegated to the Head of Place to agree the terms of a grant agreement with Gloucester Cathedral, in consultation with the Council Solicitor and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 Gloucester Cathedral has approached the Council with a request for a grant contribution to support its submission to the NLHF for funding towards Project Pilgrim Phase 2. The Council's contribution of £150,000 would partly match the Cathedral's bid, which in the first instance is for £8.39m.
- 3.2 The first phase of Project Pilgrim has been a great success, attracting 120,000 additional visitors, securing 120 new volunteers, increasing average visitor donations, and creating an extremely high standard of space for the public and visitors to the Cathedral to enjoy. Perhaps more significantly, this has also been a flagship project for the city and its success in moving from a NLHF cold spot to securing over £20m investment. The project has gained a national reputation with awards for sustainability, landscaping, interpretation and accessibility.
- 3.3 Building upon the success of Phase 1, the Cathedral has submitted a bid under NLHF's Heritage Horizons fund for £8.39m. If that bid is unsuccessful a reduced bid for a scaled-down project will be submitted under NLHF's general fund.
- 3.4 In Phase 2 the focus will shift to the western quarter: restoring the remarkable medieval Parliament Rooms and adjacent buildings; creating a new learning centre and exhibition space; and redeveloping the restaurant and shop. It will also enable the completion of landscaping works to the south of the Close (i.e. the bottom of Lower College Green including the War Memorial area), and the extension of those works to the north of the Close (including Miller's Green) to meet public realm standards as part of the links between Westgate, King's Quarter and Kingsholm. The plans include strong legacy features, including extensive biodiversity elements, full accessibility and creative public engagement, volunteering and skills development opportunities.
- 3.5 Appendix 1 presents an extract from the Expression of Interest submitted by the Cathedral to the NHLF, giving further details of Phase 2.

4.0 Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Considerations

- 4.1 The Phase 2 Expression of Interest makes explicit reference to the greater involvement of the community through
 - Stakeholder and partner engagement in the design of the project
 - Community engagement in its design
 - New volunteering opportunities
 - The development of construction skills
 - Community allotments

5.0 Environmental Implications

- 5.1 The project would aim to set very high environmental standards using the United Nation's Sustainability Goals as a framework to balance the current and future priorities of people, planet and prosperity. Gloucester Cathedral is keen to use the

project to show the specific actions needed from all stakeholders in response to the City Council's recently declared Climate Emergency.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

6.1 The Council could decline the request for funding, requiring the Cathedral to draw upon other sources, including funding raising, its own reserves, and other partner organisations to match the NLHF bid. Whilst the Cathedral has seen a recent rise in average donations from visitors this would reduce the likelihood of success of the bid.

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

7.1 To lend the financial and political support of the City Council towards the ongoing delivery of Project Pilgrim, including securing significant national funding to the City.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

8.1 The success of Phase 1 of Project Pilgrim has been widely acknowledged and has assisted in bringing additional tourist numbers, positive national attention and grant funding to Gloucester. A recent planning application for College Street cited the impact of Project Pilgrim as a specific reason for locating to the area. Securing the further NLHF funding would enable the delivery of the second phase with the consequent community, environmental and economic benefits.

8.2 With its focus on the full close and delivering against partner priorities, Phase 2 provides a physical link between the opportunities flowing from Kings Quarter and the recent High Streets Heritage Action Zone in Westgate Street. It also provides a focus for work to deliver against key issues identified in the recent State of the City event. The Expression of Interest explicitly aims to work with homeless, vulnerable and young people and promote wellbeing and environmental sustainability

8.3 Should the Council agree to make the requested contribution £150,000 it would be on the following terms:

1. The contribution would be split over three financial years, commencing in 2020/21
2. The contribution would be subject to a legal agreement
3. The contribution would be dependent upon the Cathedral securing significant funding from NLHF.
4. The Council's contribution would be fully acknowledged in all materials and publicity produced in association with the project.

8.4 The Friends of Gloucester Cathedral have already committed substantial match funding.

8.5 Relatively modest contributions from the City Council to Project Pilgrim, Llanthony Priory and Discover DeCrypt have in the past been very helpful in securing major funding from the Heritage Lottery as a sign of the city's commitment to those projects.

9.0 Financial Implications

9.1 Members will recall that the Council has made financial contributions towards Project Pilgrim in recent years totalling £162,680. The history of contributions was summarised in the report to Cabinet, of 2nd October 2018, which set out the following sums:

£50,000	Match funding contribution to Project Pilgrim Phase 1, agreed in November 2014
£50,000	Contribution to make up a funding deficit in the Phase 1 project
£12,680	Further grant to complete security lighting elements.
£50,000	Contribution to give the Cathedral the capacity to work up and submit the initial Phase 2 NLHF funding application, agreed in October 2018.

9.2 There are no direct budgetary implications as it is proposed that the contribution of £150,000 is taken from the Regeneration Account, which is ring-fenced to support the regeneration of the city. This drawdown on the Regeneration Account is in line with the fund's purpose.

10.0 Legal Implications

10.1 The contribution would be subject to a legal grant agreement which will stipulate how the funding is to be used.

10.2 Whenever financial assistance is proposed, there must be consideration of the rules against state aid. There are options available that enable financial assistance in certain circumstances not to contravene those rules. Prior to entering into the agreement, legal advice will be given to officers on those options.

10.3 To avoid any breach of forward funding limitations, the funding should be committed from current budget, albeit drawn down over future years.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation of this report)

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

Risk	Impact	Level of impact	Likelihood of impact	Mitigating measures
The Cathedral is unable to secure the NLHF funding.	The project would be either unable to proceed or able to proceed but significantly under-funded. This would diminish the effectiveness of the Council's contribution.	Low	Med	The Council's offer of a grant would be subject to the securing of NLHF grant funding. Officers to maintain close liaison with the Cathedral Head of Projects to track the NLHF bid.

Opportunities	Impact	Level of impact	Likelihood of impact	Maximising measures
To secure significant NLHF and other funding to the Cathedral.	Enhancement of one of the City's principal visitor attractions and heritage assets, and a key area within the city centre.	High	Med	Financial support would be enhanced by the political support of the City Council towards the project.

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

12.1 There are no safeguarding implications of this report.

13.0 Community Safety Implications

13.1 The refurbishment and development outlined in the NLHF Expression of Interest includes specific reference to enhancing parts of the Cathedral that currently attract anti-social behaviour.

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

14.1 None

Background Documents:

Appendix 1: Summary of the Project Pilgrim Phase 2: Reveal to Sustain, taken from National Lottery Heritage Fund Expression of Interest