



## Operational Officer Decision Record

Where the decision has a financial value of between £100k - £350k and does not have a **significant** impact on two or more wards

**1. Subject and details of the matter** (to include reasons for the decision and detail of any previous cabinet decision)

This decision is in accordance with the delegation (see below) established in relation to adoption of the Creativity Strategy through Cabinet approval of 16 March 2022 (Cabinet Decision Notice DN.141).

The decision notice resolved that authority is delegated to the Executive Director Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Housing and Tourism to publish, promote and implement such strategy.

Due to a change in the scheme of delegation, the responsibility for decision making for the Creativity Strategy with effect from 21 October 2022 is the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure as constitutionally permitted.

As a result of changes to the remit of Portfolio Holders, the responsibility for decision making for the Creativity Strategy with effect from 25 May 2023 is the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Visitor Economy as constitutionally permitted.

North East Lincolnshire is a Heritage Place for National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and a Priority Place for Arts Council England (ACE).

The Creativity Strategy adopted in March 2022 set out the Council's vision for creativity across the Borough. In May 2022, a Creativity Board was established to

develop an action plan and to deliver the objectives of the Strategy. The action plan includes a strand of bringing more investment into the borough to enable creative and heritage activity to be delivered.

This grant is the first Heritage Fund investment in North East Lincolnshire following the announcement that North East Lincolnshire is a Heritage Place, which is a strategic place-based intervention that is intended to make a long-term difference to *'put heritage at the centre of local approaches to boost pride in place, revitalise local economies and improve people's connection to where they live, work and visit.'* (Heritage Fund, Heritage 2033 Strategy).

The Creativity Board agreed that an application for a Heritage Fund grant would enable delivery of the Creativity Strategy themes of Creativity for All, Creative Economy and Creative Working. Additionally, it was felt that the Council should be the lead organisation for the bid given the recent successful delivery of the Heritage Starter Fund and Grimsby Creates programme and prominent position within the local heritage sector.

Over the next 3 years, with the Heritage Fund grant, we will deliver ambitious activity across NEL capturing our renewed confidence, celebrating our history and green future. Cementing foundations of Grimsby Creates and Heritage Starter Fund, we will focus on participation and engagement, strengthening partnerships and delivering NEL and Heritage Fund's aims as a Heritage Place .

## **2. Decision being taken**

The decision required for the Creativity Strategy is/are:

1. To approve the proposal for the Council to act as accountable body for the Heritage Fund grant award and accept funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund with a total value of £250,000 over the next 3 years.
2. To authorise the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Visitor Economy to:
  - Negotiate and finalise appropriate agreements between the Council and Heritage Fund and partnership/service level agreements with delivery partners in relation to the grant.

- Commence procurement and commissioning exercises for projects to be delivered through the grant and make appropriate awards.

- Finalise project appraisal, approval, contractual terms and claims/monitoring processes.

3. Authorises the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Visitor Economy to ensure that all necessary ancillary actions are completed.

4. Authorises the Assistant Director Law and Governance to execute all documents in connection with the above.

### **3. Anticipated outcome(s)/benefits**

Approval of these activities will contribute to the delivery of the Create North East Lincolnshire programme as specified in the funding agreement with Heritage Benefits and impacts will be realised within North East Lincolnshire as follows:

- North East Lincolnshire's residents are proud of their shared heritage, look forward and have the opportunity to participate and enjoy creativity and culture.

- North East Lincolnshire has a strong network of ambitious heritage organisations and individuals who have places to develop and showcase their work and are connected locally, nationally and internationally.

- North East Lincolnshire's vibrant culture contributes to the social and economic prosperity of Lincolnshire.

- North East Lincolnshire's creative individuals and organisations have well-established funding sources from private and public investors.

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### **4. Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer when making the decision**

Do not accept the grant award – the Council would not be following the decision notice of the Cabinet meeting of 16 March 2022 in relation to the Creativity Strategy. Additionally, this would have a negative impact and limit the Council's ability to support and deliver a range of creative projects.

**5. Background documents considered** (web link to be included or copies of documents for publishing)

The Creativity Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 16 March 2022:

[Cabinet – Special | Democracy \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#)

The Creativity Strategy is available here:

[4.-Creativity-Strategy-1.pdf \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#)

**6. Does the taking of the decision include consideration of Exempt information? If yes, specify the relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A and the reasons**

No

**7. Details of any conflict of interest declared by any Cabinet Member who was consulted by the officer which relates to the decision (in respect of any declared conflict of interest, please provide a note of dispensation granted by the Council's Chief Executive)**

None

**8. Monitoring Officer Comments (Monitoring Officer or nominee)**

The procurement exercise will be conducted so as to comply with the Council's policy and legal obligations, specifically in compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, and supported by relevant officers. Legal Services will support the completion of the contractual documentation on award.

Officers should note that an award constitutes a further decision and will be subject to completion of an Officer Decision Record. Where key decision criteria are met such Officer Decision Record will be subject to call in. Award and implementation timelines should accommodate this.

**9. Section 151 Officer Comments (Deputy S151 Officer or nominee)**

Acceptance of National Lottery Heritage Fund revenue grant funding, totalling £250,000 over the next 3 years, will facilitate the delivery of creative and heritage activity across the borough in line with the Council's Creativity Strategy.

**10. Human Resource Comments (Head of People and Culture or nominee)**

There are no direct HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

**11. Risk Assessment (in accordance with the Report Writing Guide)**

This is a substantial revenue project for NELC and partners to deliver creative and heritage activity across the borough. There are significant opportunities to develop existing and new creative and heritage partnerships, empower and support local creative entrepreneurs and provide opportunities for creative and heritage careers to be developed in our borough.

The recent Heritage Starter Fund programme and establishment of a Heritage Network has provided stability for both the Council and local heritage sector by carefully managing risks that previously had the potential to jeopardise heritage project delivery across the Borough. The activities in the bid will further contribute to minimising these risks by the selected delivery partners and oversight from the Creativity Board on a quarterly basis.

A detailed project plan is in place to ensure key milestones are met and the programme team are working closely with Heritage Fund to ensure successful delivery of this grant funded programme and minimise any risk of grant clawback.

**12. If the decision links to a previous one taken by Cabinet, has the Cabinet Tracker been updated?**

The tracker will be updated once this ODR has been approved.

**13. Decision Maker(s):**

Name: Carolina Borgstrom

Title: Director of Economy,  
Environment & Infrastructure

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 14/11/2023

**14. Consultation carried out with  
Portfolio Holder(s):**

Name: Councillor H Dawkins

Title: Portfolio Holder for Culture,  
Heritage and Visitor Economy

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023