

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date:	8 July 2021
Title:	Investing in Hampshire
Report From:	Director of Corporate Resources and Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to consider a revised bid against the Investing in Hampshire Fund in respect of the Bursledon Brickworks Museum.
2. Bursledon Brickworks is located in Swanwick and is the only surviving industrial scale Victorian brick works left in the country. Opened in 1897 using machinery powered by steam and employing a new method of drying bricks, patented by its original Quaker owners the Ashby family.
3. Part of the site includes brick drying sheds were innovative at the time they were built and were integral to the brick drying method patented by the Ashbys. Two of these ground breaking sheds are currently derelict and at risk and without intervention it is clear that the sheds will deteriorate further, eventually collapse and a significant part of both Hampshire's and the nation's industrial heritage will then be lost for ever.
4. A £1.7m scheme had been developed that aimed to ensure that these sheds were saved, restored, and given new uses that will help start-up businesses create jobs and generate income, ensuring their long-term survival and financial sustainability.
5. In January 2020 a request was made for a contribution of £100,000 towards the cost of the total scheme, which was approved by the Executive Member for Policy and Resources subject to a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the bulk of the funding.

6. Unfortunately, the Heritage Lottery bid was unsuccessful, but over the last year some other fundraising has taken place and the Bursledon Brickworks Museum Trust now wish to progress a revised bid to enable some works to be completed on the site.

Recommendation(s)

The Executive Member for Policy and Resources is recommended to :

7. Approve the use of the existing award of £100,000 towards the phase 1 works at Bursledon Brickworks subject to the other funding being in place.

Bursledon Brickworks

8. The previous scheme centred around the restoration of the sheds and a changed use to provide start-up space for new businesses, creating opportunities for economic development and generating income that would help with the upkeep of the facilities.
9. The larger project has now been put on hold following the rejection of the initial bid by the Heritage Lottery Fund, but it is proposed to carry out phase 1 works that would :
 - Ensure the two drying sheds and the kiln can be removed from the Heritage-At-Risk Register.
 - Enable the two drying sheds to be useable.
 - Fully interpret the kiln.
 - Create additional exhibition space on the top level of the kiln explaining the history of kiln design.
10. Appendix 1 outlines the detailed bid submitted to the County Council by the Trust to support the application.
11. The total cost of the phase 1 works is £1.1m and to date, £105,000 has been received in fundraising pledges on the assumption that these can be applied to the revised scheme. The majority of the funding will come from the delayed land sale mentioned in the Appendix which requests utilisation of the original £100,000 of Investing in Hampshire funding to allow this first phase of works to go ahead.
12. The Executive Member for Policy and Resources is recommended to approve the request subject to the rest of the funding being in place.

Climate Change Impact Assessment

13. Whilst the Bursledon Brickworks is not a County Council owned building, the proposed works will help in restoring the fabric of the buildings which will help in reducing the amount of carbon through better insulation and energy efficient measures etc.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes/⌘
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes/no
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes/⌘
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes/⌘
OR	
This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. *Equalities Impact Assessment:*

The scheme does not have any detrimental impact on people with protected characteristics and provides opportunities that support a thriving and diverse voluntary and community sector and body of volunteers.