

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources
Date:	28 July 2021
Title:	Investing in Hampshire Fund – Southampton City Council UK City of Culture 2025
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the background to Southampton City Council's UK City of Culture 2025 bid and establish the County Council's support for the same.

Recommendation

2. That the Executive Member for Policy and Resources confirms that the Investing in Hampshire Fund supports Southampton City Council's bid with an initial payment of £10,000 in 2021/22, followed by an additional five £10,000 annual payments.
3. That financial support would be contingent on the bid successfully progressing through the competition and the development of a programming and promotion plan that benefits a wider Hampshire hinterland

Executive Summary

4. Southampton City Council is bidding for UK City of Culture 2025 status and is seeking Hampshire County Council's support for the same. Southampton is a key city for wider Hampshire and its reinvention as a diverse, liveable and inclusive city is central to the vibrancy of the wider area and its attractiveness for young people, talent, and innovation that is required to secure a greener and more sustainable economic and social future. City of Culture status could therefore be an important catalyst for a new cultural, social, and economic renewal for the city and its Hampshire hinterland.

Contextual information

5. UK City of Culture is a competition run by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) every four years. It aims to show how culture can be at the heart of social and economic recovery.
6. Southampton City Council decided in 2019 to bid for UK City of Culture 2025 with a Southampton City of Culture Trust overseeing the bid planning, delivery and legacy. Sponsorship has already been secured from public sector, corporate, media and education partners.
7. DCMS launched the competition to find UK City of Culture 2025 in late May 2021, with some bid criteria revisions that were aimed at increasing the number of bidders, expanding the geographies of bid areas, and further emphasising the importance of 'levelling-up'/economic regeneration. For the first time, groups of towns are now able to form joint bids and part of the programme can be delivered in a wider hinterland, including rural areas, and bidders are encouraged to consider how their longer-term strategy will engage and benefit surrounding communities.
8. Southampton City Council approached the County Council to seek support for its City of Culture Expression of Interest (EoI) application in July 2021 and the development of a longer-term collaborative and mutually beneficial partnership towards City of Culture status. If Southampton is successful with its EoI it will be one of six cities invited to submit a full application in early September, prior to a January 2022 submission, with the winner announced May 2022.
9. The County Council believes that City of Culture could be an important catalyst for a new cultural, social, and economic renewal for the city and its Hampshire hinterland. Southampton is a key city for wider Hampshire and its reinvention as a diverse, liveable and inclusive city is central to the vibrancy of the wider area and its attractiveness for young people, talent, and innovation that is required to secure a greener and more sustainable economic and social future.
10. Incorporating Hampshire's extensive network of libraries, cultural venues and greenspaces across the county as part of the programming and promotion will also extend and deepen the reach of the City of Culture and generate additional benefits for the whole-Hampshire economy and cultural landscape. The County Council will ensure that these activities are agreed in a programming and promotion plan that benefits a wider Hampshire hinterland.

Finance

11. It is recommended that the Investing in Hampshire Fund supports Southampton City Council's bid with an initial payment of £10,000 in 2021/22,

followed by an additional five £10,000 annual payments. The payments would be contingent on the bid successfully progressing through the competition and the development of a programming and promotion plan that benefits a wider Hampshire hinterland.

Consultation and Equalities

12. No consultation has been carried out in developing these proposals as they relate to confirmation of a position of support for Southampton City Council's City of Culture bid and will have no direct impact on residents or the wider public. For the same reasons, a neutral impact is anticipated on groups with protected characteristics.

Climate Change Impact Assessments

13. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.
14. The carbon mitigation tool and climate change adaptation tool were not applicable because the proposals set out in this report will have no direct impact of themselves upon climate change mitigation or adaptation.

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
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 characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic 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 which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

The changes proposed by this recommendation are assessed as having a neutral impact on people with protected characteristics.

FUNDING CRITERIA FOR INVESTING IN HAMPSHIRE

The following criteria should be taken into account when considering a request for funding.

1. Assistance will be considered only in response to direct applications from properly constituted organisations seeking assistance for one-off funding only. The application must show that the organisation is properly and legally organised and has its own bank account. Funding would only be awarded if the proposal was to support activity within agreed County Council priorities.

2. Applications will be considered for the items listed below, where these are within agreed priorities and generally only where other substantial funding exists:

- Specific capital projects for the improvement or maintenance of significant assets or facilities within Hampshire
- Projects that will support economic development and business growth within Hampshire.

3. Other applications will be considered at the absolute discretion of the Leader where he considers that the award will make a contribution for the wider benefit of Hampshire and its residents.

4. The wider economic and other benefits to the residents of Hampshire should be considered together with any complementary benefits for Hampshire County Council.

5. Awards will not usually be made in respect of applications from the following:-

- Government Institutions
- Schools
- Overseas and out of County organisations which have no direct Hampshire involvement
- Bodies requesting funds for onward distribution to other charities e.g.
- mayoral appeals, carnivals, fetes, or for their own fundraising events.

6. Apart from exceptional circumstances, the requesting body would be expected to provide their own funding towards the project.

7. As a general rule, grants in excess of £250,000 will not be awarded unless significant benefits and funding are available. In exceptional cases, where the benefits are significant and directly relate to services and functions close to the County Council's key objectives, then an award greater than the level above would be considered.

8. Given the longer term nature of capital projects, requests can be considered well in advance, but funding will only be released once evidence of capital expenditure has been provided to the County Council or other arrangements made, consistent with the agreement of the Director of Corporate Resources.