

Record of Officer Decision

Decision title:	Decision to approve and launch the Cultural Development and Cultural Programming grant schemes as part of the UKSPF Investment Plan.
Date of decision:	7 June 2023
Decision maker:	Corporate Director of Economy and Environment
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>The cabinet took a decision on the 15 December 2022 to accept and spend the UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) allocated to Herefordshire (£6.6m) in accordance with the Investment Plan approved by government. The decision delegates all operational decisions to the Corporate Director for Economy and Environment.</p> <p>Decision - To Accept and Spend Any Approved UK Shared Prosperity Plan and Rural Prosperity Funds Approved by Government - Herefordshire Council</p>
Wards:	All wards
Consultation:	Consultation with the Service Director for Communities and Acting Service Director for Economy have taken place on the implementation arrangements for the Cultural Growth Grant scheme, in addition to external member organisations of the Herefordshire Cultural Partnership (HCP).
Decision made:	<p>To approve a total fund allocation of £583,200 towards cultural improvement grants as part of the UKSPF Investment Plan, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve the Cultural Development grant arrangements as part of measure <i>E4: Enhancing existing cultural, historic & heritage institutions offer</i>, which will provide eligible applicants a maximum of £9,000 to enhance the offer at existing cultural facilities and amenities, to increase visitor numbers and improve the perception of facilities and amenities across Herefordshire. Total fund allocation is £414,720. • To approve the Cultural Programming grant arrangements as part of measure <i>E6: Support for local arts, culture, heritage and creative activities</i>, which will provide eligible applicants a maximum grant of £7,000 for local arts, culture, heritage and creative activities to increase footfall, engagement and cultural programming across Herefordshire. Total fund allocation is £168,480.
Reasons for decision:	<p>In April 2022, the government launched the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), to replace the European Union funded structural funds.</p> <p>The primary goal of the UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. This aligns with the Levelling Up White Paper missions. Funding is targeted where it is needed most: building pride in place, supporting high quality skills training, supporting pay, employment and productivity growth and increasing life chances.</p> <p>The council has been allocated £7,545,330 to be spent between 2022 and 2025, of which, £903,194 is for 'Multiply' adult numeracy support which is subject to a separate decision. The government announced approval of the Investment Plan on the 5 December 2022, and Cabinet took the decision to accept and spend these funds on 15th December, 2022</p> <p>https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=9216</p>

Under the Community and Places Investment Priority, the Cultural Grant scheme will deliver measure E4, which supports enhancing existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions and results in an improved perception of facilities and amenities in Herefordshire, increased footfall, and more events and participatory programmes; and E6, which supports local arts, culture, heritage and creative activities and results in improved engagement and new local cultural events and activities across the county.

What activities can be supported by each grant scheme?

<p>Cultural Development Grants</p> <p><i>Building cultural resilience, growth and engagement across the existing Herefordshire cultural institutions.</i></p>	<p>This revenue grant will support a range of improvements, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancements to the operation or offer of an existing cultural organisation or community cultural amenity in Herefordshire. • Community outreach or engagement programmes linked to existing Herefordshire cultural or heritage assets/ sites. • Community-led programmes linked to existing Herefordshire cultural or heritage assets/sites. • Other programmes that improve local access and participation, help to overcome barriers of engagement, or support volunteering and skills development linked to existing Herefordshire cultural or heritage assets/ sites.
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<p>Cultural Programming Grants</p> <p><i>Building vibrancy, activity and community programming across Herefordshire.</i></p>	<p>This revenue grant will support a range of local cultural activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for the development and/or operation of local maker spaces • Funding for local art galleries/ museums/ libraries for exhibitions • Support for local displays for artists to showcase work • Funding for local cultural or heritage tours • Funding for local cultural or creative community programming • Support for the establishment or development of programmes to share cultural, arts or heritage knowledge or resources locally.
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What activities cannot be supported by the grant schemes?

- Events and Festivals are being funded through a separate grant scheme as part of measure E6 which supports local arts, culture, heritage and creative activities, so projects classed as events or festivals will not be eligible for either grant scheme.
- Capital works, renovation or conservation projects.

Who can apply to the Cultural Grant scheme?

Any organisation or business with a legal status can apply. This may include local authorities, public sector organisations, higher and further education institutions, private sector companies, voluntary organisations, registered charities or local cultural businesses.

	<p>Projects, programmes and activities must be held in Herefordshire and all members of the public must be able to attend (via a reasonable charge if necessary) at all times.</p> <p><u>Who cannot apply?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals • Unconstituted organisations • Organisations who are registered in the county but propose to deliver events, activities and programmes outside Herefordshire • Applicants who are registered outside Herefordshire, except when they deliver their business and benefits directly in Herefordshire. <p><u>Outcomes and Outputs</u></p> <p>Outputs/outcomes required to meet in Measure E4 for Cultural Development grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46 organisations receiving grants • 46 events / participatory programmes • 10% increased visitor numbers • 10% improved perception of facilities and amenities <p>Outputs/outcomes required to meet in Measure E6 for Cultural Programming grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 organisations receiving grants • 24 local events or activities • 10% increase in footfall • 10% improved engagement <p><u>Application process, appraisal and moderation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application instructions and guidance will be made available via Herefordshire Council website; • Applications will be assessed by an internal panel including the Culture and Leisure Lead and Museum Lead along with advice from external advisors; • Applications will be appraised to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria and scored based on the outcomes and outputs required for each individual grant scheme and the Herefordshire Council Investment Plan. • The Service Director for Communities is the delegated authority to award grants to applications that meet the eligibility requirements of the scheme; • The Delegated Grants and Programmes Team will administer the grants scheme; • Organisations can apply once in each financial year; • In each financial year, there will be a number of funding rounds. If the value of applications exceeds the funds remaining in the funding round, highest scoring applications will be given priority.
<p>Highlight any associated risks / finance / legal / equality considerations:</p>	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>The UKSPF allocation for the Cultural Grant scheme from measures E4 and E6 is £675,000. The total allocation for the Cultural Development grant scheme is £414,720 and the total allocation for the Cultural Programming</p>

grant is £168,480, as follows:

Measure	2023/24	2024/25	Total
E4: Enhancing existing cultural, historic & heritage institutions offer	£120,000	£360,000	£480,000
E6: Local arts, cultural, heritage & creative activities	£60,000	£135,000	£195,000
4% Revenue costs netted off for administration of UKSPF Programme	(£7,200)	(£19,800)	(£27,000)
10% M&A costs for Delegated Grants / Culture Lead to administer Cultural Growth Grant scheme	(£17,280)	(£47,520)	(£64,800)
Total budget to allocate to Cultural Grants scheme	£155,520	£427,680	£583,200

Legal

UKSPF grant terms (including output/outcome definitions) will be written into the successful applicants' contracts, and collection of the outputs will form part of these. Applicants will be given two months after delivering the projects to collect the evidence relating to UKSPF outcomes and outputs depending on the specifics of each category criteria.

All applicants will need to comply with subsidy control measures, contained within the grant funding agreement. Grant application paperwork is being developed in consultation with the legal department to ensure compliance. Minimum Financial Assistance procedures will be adopted for this scheme.

Procurement

This scheme will operate as a delegated grant scheme in line with Herefordshire Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

Risks

Reputational Risk: There is reputational risk if the council chooses not to deliver this activity. It is recommended that the council delivers support for local arts, culture, heritage and creative activities by implementing the Cultural Growth Grant scheme to meet the aims and objectives of the UKSPF Investment Plan and support the delivery of the outcomes and outputs.

No take up: The grant scheme needs to be issued within a tight two-year window, with some grant schemes needing to be completed in 2023/24. The grant scheme will be advertised in May 2023 so will give time to allow time-critical funds to be awarded and spent by March 2024. The scheme will be promoted widely to ensure maximum take up via the Herefordshire Cultural Partnership network and website 'The Shire' and a dedicated webpage.

	<p>Not meeting the required outputs: The council has committed to delivering support for local arts, culture, heritage and creative industries as part of the Investment Plan and is required to meet outputs and outcomes as a result of this support. This will be written into the contracts of successful applicants which will require them to collect the relevant evidence following the implementation of the projects.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>Currently, there is no other funding to support Herefordshire cultural organisations, public bodies, businesses and charities. If the council does not use UKSPF funds for this grant scheme, or for other activities within measure E4 and E6 before March 2025, the money will be lost to the county.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	<p>None.</p>