

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Decision to accept a grant of £200,000 from the Clore Duffield Foundation for the Hereford Museum and Art Gallery redevelopment project and adjust the capital programme accordingly
Date of decision:	16/12/2024
Decision maker:	Director of Finance, Section 151 Officer
Authority for delegated decision:	Cabinet Member Decision Hereford Museum and Art Gallery progress update and recommendations , 21 August 2024 that, “the S151 Officer be delegated authority, to accept any additional funding and adjust the capital programme for Hereford Museum and Art Gallery redevelopment project if additional funding is secured from external providers.”
Ward:	Central
Consultation:	Corporate Director Community Wellbeing Legal Finance
Decision made:	<p>To approve the acceptance of a grant totalling £200,000 from the Clore Duffield Foundation to support the Hereford Museum & Art Gallery Redevelopment and adjust the capital programme accordingly.</p> <p>This grant will support the creation of a Clore Learning Space in the newly redeveloped museum and gallery. The grant will support the development of a dedicated learning facility, enabling the delivery of high-quality educational and community programming, aligned with the council's strategic priorities for cultural engagement, diversity, and lifelong learning.</p> <p>The Clore Learning Space will provide a modern, accessible environment to serve schools, community groups, and visitors, with a particular focus on disadvantaged and rural communities. It will enhance skills development, wellbeing, and inclusion, contributing to Herefordshire’s cultural and economic growth.</p> <p>This funding complements the wider redevelopment project, ensuring a sustainable and inclusive design while establishing the museum as a flagship cultural destination in the county. The grant secures a critical element of the project and reinforces the council’s commitment to enriching the lives of residents and visitors through arts, heritage, and learning.</p>

Reasons for decision:	<p>The grant supports the creation of a high-quality learning space that will enhance educational opportunities and community engagement, ensuring more people can benefit from the redeveloped museum.</p> <p>The funding supports the council's commitment to improving access to arts and heritage, particularly for rural and disadvantaged communities, aligning with strategic priorities for inclusion and lifelong learning.</p>
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	<p>Accepting the grant minimises the financial impact on the council while contributing to the museum's transformation into a nationally significant cultural destination, boosting pride and opportunities for Herefordshire residents.</p>
Equality Considerations	<p>Accessible Design: The Clore Learning Space will be constructed to meet the highest accessibility standards, including features such as level access, wide doorways, and adaptable spaces to ensure usability for individuals with disabilities.</p> <p>Future Inclusivity: The design will consider the needs of diverse user groups to ensure the space is suitable for all ages, abilities, and backgrounds, laying the foundation for inclusive programming and community use after completion.</p> <p>Compliance with Equality Duty: The development aligns with the council's Public Sector Equality Duty by proactively creating an inclusive environment that reduces barriers and promotes equality of opportunity for all users.</p>

Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>Risks</p> <p>Delays in construction or procurement could impact the timeline for completing the Clore Learning Space, which is integrated into the overall museum redevelopment.</p> <p>Cost overruns may arise if unexpected structural or logistical challenges occur during the construction phase.</p> <p>Finance:</p> <p>The £200,000 grant from the Clore Duffield Foundation significantly reduces the financial burden on the council for this aspect of the redevelopment.</p> <p>Any additional costs associated with the space will need to be managed within the overall redevelopment budget to avoid overspend.</p> <p>Legal</p> <p>The project will comply with all planning permissions, building regulations, and heritage considerations, given the Grade II listed status of the building.</p> <p>The grant will be used in accordance with the terms set by the Clore Duffield Foundation.</p> <p>Equality</p> <p>The space will be designed to meet accessibility standards, ensuring it is fully inclusive and compliant with the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>There are no anticipated negative equality impacts, as the space will enhance access to cultural and educational opportunities for all groups, particularly those with disabilities or from disadvantaged backgrounds.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and	<p>Not Accepting the Grant</p> <p>This option was rejected as it would significantly limit the scope and quality of the Clore Learning Space. Without the grant, the council would</p>

rejected:	<p>need to secure additional funding or reduce the ambition for the learning space, which could impact the museum's ability to deliver its educational and community engagement objectives.</p> <p>Using Existing Budgets Solely relying on existing redevelopment budgets was deemed unfeasible as it would either overextend available funds or require reallocating resources from other critical aspects of the project. This could compromise the overall vision and sustainability of the redevelopment.</p> <p>Delaying the Clore Learning Space Development Postponing the construction of the Clore Learning Space until after the main redevelopment was completed was rejected as it would disrupt the integrated project timeline, increase costs due to inflation, and delay the benefits the space would bring to the community and schools.</p> <p>These alternatives were rejected in favour of accepting the Clore Duffield Foundation grant, which ensures the timely and high-quality delivery of a dedicated learning space within the redevelopment project.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed..... Date: 28/03/2025

Rachael Sanders
Director of Finance