

Report to Leader

Subject: Ambition Arnold One Public Estate Programme 10 Grant Award

Date: 29th February 2024

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Wards Affected

Ernehale

Purpose

To seek approval to revise the Ambition Arnold budget by £150,000 funded by the One Public Estate (OPE) Programme 10 award with the funding supporting feasibility works as per the conditions of the grant funding.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation(s)

That the Leader of the Council:

- i) Approves the establishment of an additional £150,000 budget funded from the OPE Programme 10 award that will support the expansion of feasibility Ambition Arnold works.

1. Background

- 1.1 In 2023 approval was given to establish a £200,000 regeneration budget to procure a masterplan plan for the wider Arnold town centre with a focus on leisure and cultural facilities approaching “end of life” in the town.
- 1.2 In November 2023 a national OPE Programme 10 was launched with a total of £1.2m funding available. The North Midlands OPE partnership was invited

to submit a single Expression of Interest a project of between £75,000 - £150,000.

- 1.3 The OPE Programme 10 funding is designed to support projects that are ambitious and innovative, where partners are championing new approach and are ready to take the next step in delivery. The programme is intended for projects where there is partnership collaboration and will transform public services to better meet local needs and outcomes across a number of themes that include: -
 - Estate rationalisation
 - Health, sustainability and community
 - Town centre regeneration
 - Education, employment and skills

- 1.4 The funding is intended to enable partners to undertake works that will meaningfully accelerate the delivery of their projects that can include: -
 - Feasibility studies
 - Business case development
 - Options appraisals
 - Surveys, valuations and design works
 - Specialist expertise
 - Project management

- 1.5 In November the North Midland OPE Partnership invited partners to submit their proposals and the Council's £150,000 bid Ambition Arnold project proposal was successfully shortlisted and submitted to the OPE National Team in December 2023.

- 1.6 The Council's OPE submission outlined the Council's commitment to developing a vision and masterplan for the Arnold town centre to support future development and funding applications. The application outlined that OPE funding will contribute to and extend the Council's feasibility works to support its Ambition Arnold project. The project producing a viable business case and delivery plan to initiate the realisation of the Council's ambitions for Arnold. These ambitions being focused on addressing the decline of the town centre, end of life and inefficient/carbon inefficient public buildings, poor public realm and anti-social behaviour. The OPE funding will support planning to the north of the town but also include feasibility and appraisal work to inform the future of the Council's Civic Centre.

- 1.7 The OPE funding will contribute to the following:

- **Strategic Assessment/Analysis:** including market report, policy review etc.
- **Review of uses:** Including market review, soft market testing, appraisals, etc.
- **Site and Technical surveys:** including transport assessment, topographical assessments, utility reviews, etc.
- **Architect block plans and landscaping:** RIBA 0 – 1
- **Civic Centre Feasibility:** Capacity, planning strategy, indicative appraisals, etc
- **RIBA 2 Designs**
- **Business Case development:** Including Strategic Case, Economic Case, Financial case including cost plan and Value for Money Assessment, grant funding review and financial appraisal, Commercial and Management Case
- **Project Management, Quality Assurance/QS and Contract Management**

1.8 The OPE submission included an indicative timetable that will be reviewed on confirmation and acceptance of the OPE funding, but it is envisaged that the above project will be completed in December 2024.

1.9 Although match funding was not a condition of the OPE Programme 10 fund, the Council's submission earmarked £150,000 budget from the approved regeneration budget which signals the Council's commitment to the project. The Council's contribution including master planning works that are excluded from OPE funding criteria.

1.10 In February 2024 the Council was notified that OPE application had been successful. A requirement of the funding is that the North Midland OPE Partnership enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the funders. A condition of the funding is that the MOU is signed by no later than the 1st March 2024 and that there is partnership agreement in place and that an update is provided three times a year by the Council via Derbyshire County Council, the lead authority. This will include a profile of expenditure and outputs.

1.11 In order for the Council to access the OPE funding, the Council and Derbyshire County Council will enter into a Grant Agreement post the 1st March 2024 deadline.

1.12 The OPE programme 10 funding conditions do not stipulate when the funds are to be spent.

2. Proposal

2.1 It is proposed that the Council accepts the OPE award of £150,000 that will support the Council's Ambition Arnold project.

- 2.2 It is proposed that the Council enters into a Grant Agreement with Derbyshire County Council to accept the funding and conditions.
- 2.3 It is proposed that the Council procures services as detailed in 1.7 through a compliant framework.

3. Alternative Options

3.1 Do Nothing

The Council has the option not to accept the £150,000 of OPE funding. However, this would narrow the scope of the Ambition Arnold project and would result in the Council foregoing external funding.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The acceptance of the £150,000 OPE grant will give the Ambition Arnold a total budget of £350,000 for feasibility works.
- 4.2 The £150,000 OPE grant is aimed to support works around feasibility and support of items in 1.7.
- 4.3 The grant conditions indicate GBC must adhere to the following activities:
- i. Have in place an effective board, bringing together two or more partnership members from local and central government to collaborate and deliver joint project.
 - ii. Adhere to regular reporting arrangement, providing data on partnership activity, project progress and benefits delivery updates.
- 4.4 The spend will be monitored initially as revenue expenditure, if the capital programme does receive approval from this masterplan there may be scope to capitalise some of the expenditure.
- 4.5 The Arnold Town Centre masterplan is expected to be a large project which will require significant capital budget, currently no funding has been identified for such a project so a future business case would be required following the masterplan.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Council will need to enter into a Grant Agreement in order to access the funding. The terms of the Grant Agreement will need to be compliant with the Councils Constitution and the council satisfied it can comply with the requirements imposed by the clauses. Due to the value of the funding this

agreement will need to be executed by seal in accordance with the Councils Constitution.

- 5.2 Procurement of contracts by the Council must be undertaken in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract and Procurement Rules.
- 5.3 Where a public body enters an arrangement with a company to provide a service using money from the grant fund the Subsidy Control Regime maybe triggered.

6. Equalities Implications

- 6.1 The Arnold Town Centre Masterplan will consider issues of accessibility and inclusion. The masterplan will aim to produce viable plans that can provide development to engender a sense of place, pride, ownership and cohesion.

7. Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 The masterplan will be developed in the context the Council's commitment to Net Zero in 2030. The masterplan will have a focus on improving the quality of public realm to provide green spaces and natural shading; cycling and pedestrian routes; consider the public transport network and EV charging facilities.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 Ambition Arnold One Public Estate Award Carbon Impact Assessment
- 8.2 Appendix 2 Ambition Arnold One Public Estate Equality Impact Assessment

9. Background Papers

- 9.1 Ambition Arnold, Leader Report 31 October 2023.

10. Reasons for Recommendations

- 10.1 The Leader is asked to approve the addition of £150,000 to the regeneration budget to support the Ambition Arnold project funding from the OPE programme 10 award.

Statutory Officer Approval

Approved by:

Date:

Deputy Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:

Date:

Monitoring Officer