

<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>COASTAL REVIVAL FUND</b>
<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF CHANGE &amp; ORGANISATIONAL DESIGN</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

This report seeks approval for Wirral Borough Council to act as the accountable body and release the Coastal Revival Fund (£37.5k) to Hoylake Village Life Community Interest Company as the grant recipients, in accordance with the conditions of the grant.

This matter affects the Hoylake and Meols Ward and is not a key decision.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Approval be given for:

1. Wirral Borough Council to act as the accountable body for the Coastal Revival Fund (CRF)
2. That delegated authority be given to the Director of Change & Organisational Design to make arrangements for the delivery of the responsibilities of the Accountable Body and;
3. The release of £37.5k of funding to Hoylake Village Life CIC, to progress 'The Beacon Arts Village' project, subject to a grant agreement in accordance with the grant application and terms imposed by MHCLG.

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION****1.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have stated that the Coastal Revival Fund (CRF) can only be paid to local authorities listed in Section 33 of the Local Government Act 2003. In cases where local partnerships are leading a CRF project, the funding is paid to the relevant local authority who will act as 'Accountable Body'. Therefore, to access the CRF, Hoylake Village Life CIC require the Council to act as the accountable body and release the funding to them, to enable 'The Beacon Arts Village' project to commence.

## **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

Wirral Borough Council does not act as the accountable body for the Coastal Revival Fund (CRF). This option, however, does not enable Hoylake Village Life to access, or retrieve the funding that has been awarded to them by MHCLG.

## **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

It is recommended that the local authority acts as the accountable body for the Coastal Revival Fund. The Beacon Arts Village project will see the former Hoylake Town Hall and adjacent land converted into retail and studio spaces for artists and makers, including creative industry office spaces, a two-screen cinema, restaurant and atrium café.

The Beacon Arts Village project also received £3.4m from the Coastal Community Fund. The project will benefit the coastal community by:

- Increasing footfall by an estimated 80,000 visitors per annum.
- Creating a minimum 90 new direct jobs.
- Creating many more indirect jobs in the community and supply chain.
- Providing a new cultural hub for West Wirral.
- Increasing skills exchange in the local economy.
- Conserving and improving the built environment.
- Encouraging increased use of the town's existing resources and amenities.
- Addressing seasonality in the visitor economy through emphasis on creative industries providing all year-round attractions and activities.
- Extending the visitor economy within the Liverpool City Region.
- Pioneering innovative practice, providing economic diversification for local businesses through an enterprise engine.

Strategically, the project will enable the delivery of the Wirral Plan 2020 pledges, specifically 'Vibrant visitor economy', 'Leisure and cultural opportunities for all' and the Growth Plan pledges. For example, the 'Wirral Visitor Economy Strategy 2020' evidences the wider market demand that Hoylake is failing to realise through its absence of attractions. In addition, regionally, the project will also support the delivery of the LCR Culture and Creativity Strategy and the LCR's Growth ambitions, specifically the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) goal in the Liverpool City Region to ensure 'that by 2023 the Visitor Economy will have created 12,000 additional jobs, and grown by an additional £1.2 billion by 2020', by creating a new and attractive daytime and evening visitor attraction. The project will also support the LEPs policy in 'creating the skills needed to increase economic growth' through the development of facilities for skill-sharing.

The CRF is required by Hoylake Village Life CIC to develop the bar, restaurant and café components of 'The Beacon Arts Village' project.

## **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Through acting as the accountable body for the CRF the Council will have responsibility for the release of grant monies to Hoylake Village Life CIC and for ensuring that funds are being spent legitimately and for the purposes of the grant agreed with the Ministry for Housing,

Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). Based on these conditions, there are two potential financial implications:

1. If the local authority decides not to act as the accountable body, the grant cannot be awarded to Hoylake Village Life CIC and the Council will need to return the funds.
2. If the local authority decides to act as the accountable body, but mis-administers the funding, the local authority would need to pay MHCLG back.

## **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

As aforementioned, through acting as the accountable body for the Coastal Revival Fund the local authority will have a responsibility for the release of grant monies to Hoylake Village Life CIC and for ensuring that funds are being spent legitimately and for the purposes of the grant agreed with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in accordance with the terms of the appointment.

A grant agreement will be produced to protect the Council and MHCLG from non-delivery and clawback.

## **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

There are no IT, assets or staffing implications directly impacting on the local authority as a result of this report.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

As outlined above, the relevant risks to local authority if the decision is taken to act as the accountable body for the CRF, will be ensuring due diligence is undertaken, to confirm that the funds are being spent legitimately and for the purpose of the grant agreed with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

Section not relevant to the decision to act as accountable body for the CRF.

MHCLG considered engagement and consultation undertaken to support 'The Beacon Arts Village project', as part of their decision to award Hoylake Village Life CIC the funding.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

Section not relevant to the decision to act as accountable body for the CRF.

Hoylake Village Life CIC will be responsible for ensuring equality for all and fair access. Plans for 'The Beacon Arts Village project' identify that the project will deliver essential improvements to structure, layout and accessibility ensuring that the space and associated attractions can be enjoyed by all.

## 10.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

It is noted that the project has the support of Hoylake's Community Planning Forum which is a formally designated statutory partnership between the community and Wirral Borough Council.

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### APPENDICES

N/A

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

### SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
N/A	N/A