

Notice of KEY Executive Decision containing exempt information

This Executive Decision Report is part exempt and Appendix A and B, are not available for public inspection as they contain or relate to exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. They are exempt because they refer to information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information), and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

Subject Heading:	Application to be London Borough of Culture
Decision Maker:	Councillor Ray Morgon, Leader of the Council
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Ray Morgon, Leader of the Council
SLT Lead:	Barbara Nicholls, Strategic Director People
Report Author and contact details:	Guy Selfe, 01708 433866, guy.selfe@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	Place - a great place to live, work and enjoy
Financial summary:	<p>If the application to be Borough of Culture is successful for either 2025/26 or 2027/28, a grant from the GLA of £1.35m would be made for delivery of the programme for the year.</p> <p>The Council has to demonstrate support for the application by underwriting £405k of partnership</p>

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	funding. However, from other boroughs that have been Borough of Culture it is expected this will not need to be 'new money' rather re-aligned existing budgets to the Borough of Culture activity as well as other external funding including grants, sponsorship, income from Borough of Culture activities..
Reason decision is Key	Indicate grounds for decision being Key: (a) Expenditure or saving (including anticipated income) of £500,000 or more (b) Significant effect on two or more Wards
Date notice given of intended decision:	18 October 2023
Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee:	Place Overview & Scrutiny Sub Committee
Is it an urgent decision?	No
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	No

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

People - Things that matter for residents

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy X

Resources - A well run Council that delivers for People and Place.

Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Leader of the Council is requested to :

1. Note and agree the outline of the bid for Borough of Culture 2025/26 or 2027/28 and for the Cultural Impact Award for 2026/27 for submission before the close date of 12noon on 30 November 2023.
2. Agree to underwrite the partnership funding required to meet the conditions for submitting a bid to be Borough of Culture, noting the steps already taken to identify this partnership funding and that the intention is that the funding will be allocations from existing budgets.
3. Agree that if successful in being awarded the title Borough of Culture that further applications will then be submitted to Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund for earmarked grants for successful boroughs as set out in this report.
4. Agree that the terms and conditions of any grant offers, if successful, be approved by the Section 151 Officer.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Part 3 Section 2 of Responsibility for functions

2 Executive functions

The Leader of the Council is responsible for arranging for the exercise of all executive functions and may by way of written notice delegate Executive functions to:

1. Cabinet
2. A committee of the Cabinet
3. Individual Cabinet Members
4. Staff
5. Joint Committees

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3.10 Statutory Officer Functions

3.10.3 S151 Officer Functions

(m) To accept grants and the terms and conditions thereof for and on behalf of the Council

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Background

1. As previously reported to Theme Board on 19 June 2023, applications are open for the Borough of Culture in 2025 and 2027, plus three Cultural Impact Awards for 2026 delivery.
2. The deadline for applications to be submitted to the GLA is 30 November 2023. The announcement of the successful boroughs will be made in March 2024.
3. A consortium approach to Havering's application is being adopted and is being co-chaired by Mathew Russell (Queens Theatre) and David Shearing (Trustee – Queens Theatre, local resident, artist and lecturer at London School of Speech and Drama).
4. The governance structure for the bid was agreed at Theme Board on 7 August 2023 and is shown below:

Borough of Culture Application Board

- Co-Chairs – Mathew Russell and David Shearing – as independents
 - Three or four Council representatives – 1 or 2 Members, Strategic Director or Director and Guy Selfe
 - Four Voluntary sector reps – one from each of Havering Changing consortium, Local Cultural Education Partnership (LCEP), Creative Health, Marketing and PR consortium
 - Two critical friends with relevant experience/knowledge to test our application content
5. If awarded the title of Borough of Culture for either of the two years, the GLA awards a grant of £1.35m. There are also available grants from Arts Council England of up to £300,000 and the National Lottery Heritage Fund of up to £500,000 (£250k development year and £250 k for the delivery year). Successful boroughs are also offered the opportunity to deliver the Mayors Liberty Festival with an additional £140,000 grant available. The Council is expected to underwrite a 30% cash contribution to the bid, but this can be realigned budgets towards activity relating to the Borough of Culture during the year, ticket income, sponsorship, donations and other grants.

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6. Boroughs can also apply for the Cultural Impact Awards but can only do so if applying to be Borough of Culture. In the event that a borough is not successful with its submission for the Borough of Culture, it may have the opportunity to be considered for the Cultural Impact Award. There are three Cultural Impact Awards of £200,000 available for each successful borough. The successful borough for the Cultural Impact Award will be expected to deliver one of the programme previously put on the Borough of Culture application in 2026/27.

Current Situation

7. Up to the point of reporting to Theme Board there have been three meetings of the Borough of Culture Application Board.
8. The four organisations with volunteer representatives on the Application Board have also met independently to consider and discuss the Borough of Culture application. Their contributions and feedback have been included in the outcomes, programme, principles and values for a Havering bid to be Borough of Culture.
9. There have been individual conversations with the private sector, including CEME and Wates, as well as artists. An artist's event was held on 26 October attended by 40 local and interested artists. Their thoughts and views have also been captured within the application.
10. The announcement that Havering was bidding to be Borough of Culture was also launched on 19 October with a press release, a website – www.haveringlondon.com – and social media. An update will be provided at the Theme Board meeting 13 November as to how that campaign is progressing and the numbers 'backing the bid'.
11. The application to be Borough of Culture has a set of outcomes, a themed programme for being Borough of Culture, an outline for programme delivery and some principles and values to be reflected and inform the programme delivery. The presentation attached as Appendix A provides information on these.
12. By delivering this project, the Council will be adhering to the Vision: The Havering You Want to be Part Of, and the principle, Place – a great place to live, work and enjoy. Outcome – Improve Havering's art, history, leisure and culture offer – apply to be Borough of Culture.
13. Given the relatively short timescales in which to develop the ideas around a bid to be Borough of Culture, the engagement of partners and residents means that at the time of preparing this Executive Decision, the application form has not been fully completed. However, it is expected that once the papers are circulated in advance of the Theme Board meeting on 13 November 2023, the application form will be attached for consideration and comments (Appendix B).

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14. As part of the application, supporting letters are required from the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive and the S151 Officer confirming that the 30% match funding will be underwritten.

15. This decision is required as an application to the GLA to be Borough of Culture 2025/26 or 2027/28, or to apply for a cultural Impact Award for 2026/27 cannot be made without the Council's support.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

1. Do nothing – without applying for the title award of Borough of Culture or the Cultural Impact Awards, there will be no grants received totalling a possible £2m+. This has been rejected as the impact and benefits to the borough of inward investment, engagement and legacy through being Borough of Culture are considered to be too significant to miss the opportunity if a bid is successful.
2. Do not underwrite the 30% match funding, a requirement of the application to be Borough of Culture. This has been rejected, as without this underwriting, a bid will not be successful and will fail at the first hurdle.
3. Only apply for the Borough of Culture and not the Cultural Impact Awards. This has been rejected as it increases the chance of securing grant funding by applying for both.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

A campaign to 'back the bid' for Havering to be Borough of Culture was launched on 19th October. An update on the response to that campaign will be provided at the Theme Board meeting on 13 November 2023.

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Guy Selfe

Designation: Health & Wellbeing Manager

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Signature:

Date:

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Council has a general power of competence under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything an individual can do, subject to any statutory constraints on the Council's powers. None of the constraints on the Council's Section 1 power are engaged by this decision.

Any dealings which the Council has with the grant will need to be in compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, in particular Rule 25.1, 25.2, 25.4 and 25.5.

It is the responsibility of the Council to comply with the relevant funding conditions under the Grant Agreement.

The recommendations in this report are in keeping with this power and the Council may apply for the Grant funding. In the event that the Grant application is successful, the Grant funding agreement will have to be reviewed by the Legal team.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

If the bid to be Borough of Culture is successful the grant sum awarded is £1.35m in order to carry out the programme of works contained within the bid. In addition to this, the borough could then apply for further grant funding from Arts Council England of up to £300,000 and the National Lottery Heritage Fund of up to £500,000 (£250k development year and £250 k for the delivery year). Successful boroughs are also offered the opportunity to deliver the Mayors Liberty Festival with an additional £140,000 grant available. Boroughs which apply to be Borough of Culture can also apply for the Cultural Impact Awards; there are awards of £200,000 each to deliver one programme from the Borough of Culture application in 2026/27. A Borough can only receive one award, either Borough of Culture or Cultural Impact Award. There would also be a host of non-financial benefits associated with being awarded Borough of Culture.

The cost of the preparation and submission of a bid to be Borough of Culture or for a Cultural Impact Award is approx. £10k of which 50% is being funded by a GLA grant and 50% is being funded from the Council's Arts budget.

There is a requirement as part of the application to be Borough of Culture to commit to underwrite 30% match funding, totalling £405k, if Havering is successful. There is a match funding requirement of £60k associated with a Cultural Impact Award.

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The one-off match funding does not necessarily equate to additional cost to the council. For example, sources can include:

- Existing/reallocated budgets (as long as it is towards new activities, specifically for London Borough of Culture),
- Income from charitable trusts and foundations,
- Income from public funding bodies,
- Business investment / sponsorship,
- Crowd funding,
- Cultural partnership cash contributions / joint funding applications

Council officers have been circulated a funding template to identify existing budgets that are expected to be available in 2025/26 or 2027/28 that could be realigned to Borough of Culture activity. An example might be activity planned as part of a learning disability day centre programme. This funding could be reallocated to new activities in the day centre to deliver Borough of Culture activity with a top up of funding from the grant award received as being Borough of Culture.

There was a workshop to assist officers with their thinking around reallocating existing budgets on 30 October, with templates of the proposals received by the closing date of 3 November. These ideas will be presented to Theme Board at the meeting on 13th November 2023.

Whilst it is expected that a proportion of the 30% match funding can be allocated from existing budgets, it is not expected that all of the match funding requirement will be found from this source. There is evidence from boroughs that have already be Borough of Culture that there has been success in obtaining additional match funding through the other sources listed above to meet the 30%, and indeed overachieve, match funding required. Whilst it is a risk for the Council in having to confirm that it will underwrite this match funding, it is considered low risk that the required match funding cannot be realised as described.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

There are no human resource implications or risks associated with submitting the bid to be Borough of Culture. Officers have been involved in the process of submitting the bid but this has all been contained within 'business as usual'.

Should Havering be successful with being awarded Borough of Culture status, it is expected that a team, including an Artistic Director plus Assistant as well as a Transformation and Legacy Manager will need to be appointed. However, these posts would be funded through the grant award monies received as part of being Borough of Culture. The posts would also be 'fixed term' for the required duration to deliver Borough

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of Culture. The posts would be created and recruited to in accordance with the Council's HR policies and procedures.

There will be a requirement to provide some officer support, however this is expected to be managed through 'business as usual'.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex/gender, and sexual orientation.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

In all situations, urgent or not, the Council will seek to ensure equality, inclusion, and dignity for all.

Should Havering be successful with the bid to be Borough of Culture or receive a Cultural Impact Award, one of the guiding principles of delivery is equality, diversity, inclusivity and access. This principle will be applied to delivery of the programme.

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HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There are no health and wellbeing implications or risks associated with applying to be awarded the title of Borough of Culture or for the Cultural Impact Awards.

However, if Havering is awarded either of these, there are many positive health and wellbeing implications. Participation, whether as a direct participant in the activity, a volunteer or as a spectator can bring mental and physical health and wellbeing.

As part of the proposed programme of activity there is a desire to provide education, training and development opportunities for cultural activity to positively impact people to progress their careers within the borough – talent retention.

Activities during a year as Borough of Culture will provide access either physically or digitally through hyper-local activity so everyone has access to culture activity within 15 minutes of their home or business. This will include encouraging access to outdoor spaces within the borough.

A key part of the application is to grow the cultural ecology in Havering through developing spaces for creative industries to thrive. This would provide a big benefit to the local economy. Boroughs that have already been Borough of Culture have seen over £4m investment into the local economy by being Borough of Culture. The same impact is expected if Havering is successful with the application.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There are no implications or risks associated with applying to be Borough of Culture or for the Cultural Impact Awards.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

APPENDICES

Exempt Appendix A – Borough of Culture Presentation
Exempt Appendix B – Borough of Culture Application Form

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Part C – Record of decision

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Delete as applicable

Proposal NOT agreed because

Details of decision maker

Signed

Name:

Cabinet Portfolio held:

CMT Member title:

Head of Service title

Other manager title:

Date:

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to Committee Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____