

Notice of Non-key Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	A Good Life – Historic England
Decision Maker:	Guy Selfe
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Gillian Ford
SLT Lead:	Patrick Odling-Smee
Report Author and contact details:	Lucy Single, 01708 432791, lucy.single@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	People – things that matter to residents
Financial summary:	Following an application to Historic England to deliver elements of the Culture strategy, A Good Life, an offer of grant award for £60,000 has been made to employ on a two year fixed term contract a Heritage Projects Officer.
Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Sub Committee:	██████████ Places
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	The decision will be exempt from call in as it is a Non key Decision

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

People - Things that matter for residents X

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy

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

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Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Decision Maker hereby records and / or agrees:

1. That a successful funding application was submitted to Historic England to contribute to delivering A Good Life, the culture strategy for Havering.
2. That the Strategic Director of Resources sign the terms and conditions of the grant offer.
3. That the Strategic Director of People, with the Head of Culture, Leisure, Heritage and Libraries adhere to the terms and conditions of the grant offer.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Cabinet decision dated 14 August 2024, number 218 1-3.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Background

1. On 14 August 2024 Cabinet made the following recommendations:
 - (a) Approved the draft Culture Strategy for 2025-2028, 'A Good Life' as attached at appendix A of the report.
 - (b) Delegated to the Head of Leisure and Culture, in consultation with the Strategic Director of Resources and the Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing the ability to amend and update the Culture Strategy from time to time, provided that such changes do not contravene the principles detailed in this report.

- (c) Delegated to the Head of Leisure and Culture, in consultation with the Strategic Director of Resources and the Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing the ability to take all steps necessary to deliver the Culture Strategy including (but not limited to) applications for, acceptance of and spending of external funding.
2. Pursuant to the delegation at 1(c) above, the Head of Culture, Leisure, Heritage and Libraries ("HLC") submitted a funding application to Historic England (HE). HE have recently confirmed an award offer of £60,000.
3. The offer of a grant from Historic England is to recruit a Heritage Project Officer for a two-year period to deliver the work included within the grant offer letter dependent on securing match funding as set out in the application.

Current Situation

1. In order to receive the grant award from Historic England, the terms and conditions of the award are required to be signed. The terms and conditions are attached as Appendix A.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

1. Do nothing – if the terms and conditions of the grant award are not signed the offer of the grant will be withdrawn. This has been rejected as without external funding the culture strategy, A Good Life, will not be able to be delivered.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

A campaign to 'back the bid' for Havering to be London Borough of Culture (LBOC) included over 1000 responses and engagement with more than 50 organisations. This campaign and engagement helped shape the bid to be LBOC and subsequently the content of the culture strategy, A Good Life.

No specific consultation has been undertaken in respect of this particular decision.

However, as per the Cabinet decision, the Decision Maker has consulted with the Strategic Director of Resources and the Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing who have signalled their approval the decision proposed in this report by counter signing below.

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

Name: Lucy Single

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Designation: Arts Co-ordinator



Signature:

Date: 6/3/25

Approved by Strategic Director of Resources

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Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing



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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 the recommendations within this report.

The Schedule of Conditions is attached as Appendix A.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

External funding applications to a range of strategic partners and other funding organisations have been made to deliver the projects as set out in the culture strategy, A Good Life.

An application was made to Historic England which was successful and an award of £60,000 has been made.

The terms and conditions of the award require £ of match funding to be secured and match funding has been identified and is as follows:

- Havering Council Arts Development - £5,000 per year for two years – internal council funded, existing budgets will be reprioritised and will not cause any additional pressure
- Havering Health and Sports Development – £5,000 per year for two years - internal council funded, existing budgets will be reprioritised and will not cause any additional pressure

The partnership funding already secured covers the match funding required.

The funding must be spent by the grant expiry date which is 30 June 2027 and must be spent on the projects detailed in the application and sufficient accounting and audit processes should be maintained.

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

There are no human resource implications or risks associated with submitting external funding bids to deliver the projects outlined within A Good Life. Officers have been involved in the process of submitting the bids but this has all been contained within 'business as usual'.

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The Heritage Project Officer post will be fixed term for a period of two years, although given that the funding conditions state that the grant must be used by 31 March 2027, it is expected the fixed term will be less than two years due to the time required to recruit.

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.

The delivery of all or part of elements of A Good Life, one of the guiding principles of delivery is equality, diversity, inclusivity and access. This principle will be applied to delivery of all the programmes.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There are no implications or risks associated with applying for external funding to deliver a number of projects from within the culture strategy, A Good Life.

However, if Havering is awarded external funding, the team will acknowledge best practice regarding climate change and environmental needs in line with the Havering Climate Change Action Plan and the Council's target of becoming carbon neutral by 2040.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

APPENDICES

Appendix A

Schedule of Conditions

Open

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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

Details of decision maker

Signed

Kathy Freeman



Name: Kathy Freeman

Name: Guy Selfe

Cabinet Portfolio held:

CMT Member title: Strategic Director of Resources

Head of Service title

Other manager title:

Date: 11.03.25

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 _____