

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Culture and Recreation
<b>Date:</b>	12 March 2010
<b>Title:</b>	Renaissance South East – Funding Arrangements
<b>Reference:</b>	1410
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs

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#### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to update the Executive Member on progress with the Renaissance South East Business Plan for 2009-11 and to seek approval to the funding agreements that need to be put in place to comply with the requirements of the funding bodies.
- 1.2. The paper sets out the background to the Renaissance programme, describes the funding agreements that will underpin delivery of the Plan and considers associated risks.

#### 2. Contextual information

- 2.1. Renaissance is a central government programme that has invested over £300 million in England's regional museums since 2002. Renaissance is managed nationally by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), an agency of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Practical delivery of the programme is undertaken by partnerships of museum organisations (known as Hubs) in each of the English regions. Renaissance South East (RSE) is the Hub for South East region and is a partnership between:
  - Hampshire County Council Museums Service (lead partner)
  - Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust
  - Oxford University Museums
  - Royal Pavilion, Libraries and Museums, Brighton and Hove.
- 2.2. The current phase of Renaissance work in the South East region is being carried out on the basis of a Business Plan agreed between RSE and MLA in early summer 2009, covering the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2011. This provides for an investment of up to £11 million in museum services across the region over the two years, including over £2 million coming

directly to projects managed by Hampshire County Council's Museums Service. An earlier report to the Executive Member for Culture and Recreation<sup>1</sup> set out the key features of the Business Plan and reviewed the benefits to Hampshire of the County Council's role as lead partner in RSE.

2.3. These benefits include:

- a) Allowing County museums to increase visitors by 2% year on year through high quality exhibitions in new galleries reaching Government Indemnity Standard at Winchester and Basingstoke
- b) Providing more staff and many more museum related learning sessions to a greater number of school age children each year. The number of pupils visiting in school groups rose by 6% between 2006-07 and 2008-09 and at least 80% of Hampshire schools are now using County museums.

### **3. Funding Agreements**

3.1. Following an independent review of Renaissance in 2008, MLA has substantially revised its arrangements for management of the programme in all regions and has introduced a new regime to cover 2009-11 Business Plans. The key element of this is the funding agreements entered into individually between all Hub partners and MLA. These contain provisions relating to the grant funding awarded to the partner by MLA, the terms and conditions attached to the funding and the performance monitoring arrangements.

#### Funding

3.2. £3.8million has been allocated to the County Council over the two years to support Renaissance programmes and projects across the Hampshire sub region in accordance with the Business Plan. This includes £2.2million for projects managed directly by the County Council Museums Service. Funding is drawn down on a reimbursement basis, with quarterly claims being made to MLA. Additionally, as lead partner, the County Council is responsible for administering a number of funding streams which channel funds from MLA for specific purposes (museum development officers, museum accreditation and core South East Hub management costs) and to support projects in non Hub museum organisations in the South East (see paragraph 4)

#### Terms and Conditions

3.3. The terms and conditions attached to the funding are, in general, normal for an agreement of this nature and cover such issues as:

- The need to apply funding wholly to activities set out in the Business Plan
- A requirement to keep proper accounting records and to make these available to the MLA or its agents

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<sup>1</sup> See Executive Member for Culture and Recreation Decision Day 10 September 2009, Item 5

- Sanctions for non performance
  - Performance monitoring, data collection and evaluation requirements
  - Cooperation between Hub partners
  - Application of appropriate equality and diversity policies
  - Use of MLA and Renaissance branding and appropriate acknowledgement in publicity material.
- 3.4. The agreement places specific responsibilities on the County Council, as lead partner, for the following:
- Establishing effective governance arrangements for RSE
  - Leadership, management and coordination of the South East Hub partnership
  - Supporting MLA in the overall management of Renaissance funding allocated to South East Hub partners.
- 3.5. There is also a requirement that all Hub partners adhere to a set of values and principles relating to the development, dissemination and management of sustainable digital resources that are freely available to a wide audience. This requirement is very much in line with the County Council Museum Service's policies on digital resources.

#### Performance Monitoring

- 3.6. The agreement specifies a series of key performance indicators, which form the basis of the performance monitoring requirements. These cover:
- Number of visits to the partners' museums and galleries
  - Contacts with children and young people
  - On site informal learning activities for children and adults
  - Number of visits by adults in priority groups.
- 3.7. The achievement of targets set against these indicators for the two years of the Business Plan is material to the funding agreement as MLA reserves the right to review the overall level of funding in the light of performance.

#### **4. Funding Projects in Non Hub Museums**

- 4.1. As lead partner of the South East Hub, Hampshire County Council is responsible for administering two additional funding streams on behalf of MLA. These channel earmarked resources to non Hub museum organisations in the South East region.

#### Sub Regional Projects

- 4.2. MLA has allocated up to £1 million over the two years of the Business Plan to fund projects to be undertaken by non Hub museum organisations in the four South East sub regions (Hampshire and Isle of Wight; Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire; Kent; Surrey, East and West Sussex). These projects require specific approval by the RSE and MLA Boards, each approval representing an addition to the funding agreement between the County Council and MLA. In turn, the County Council needs to put in place funding agreements with the recipient organisations that largely mirror the provisions of the main agreement with MLA. The RSE and MLA

Boards have approved five projects and further information on the agreements is set out in the confidential appendix to this report.

#### Museummaker

- 4.3. MLA and Arts Council England (ACE) have provided funding to commission new craft pieces for display in regional museums. £90,000 has been allocated to the South East region. The scheme is administered nationally on behalf of MLA and ACE by Leicester City Council (as lead partner of the East Midlands Renaissance Hub). Hampshire County Council will manage the funding for the South East region under the terms of an agreement with Leicester City Council. As with the Sub Regional Projects, the County Council will put in place funding agreements with the recipient organisations that mirror the main agreement. These funding agreements, which form a small part of the overall package, have been approved under Chief Officer delegated authority.

### **5. Risk Management**

- 5.1. The key issue for consideration is the risk impact on the County Council of the funding arrangements for RSE. The funding agreements outlined in this report are complex and detailed. The main element of risk for the County Council is in the funding agreement with MLA. In this, there is a provision that allows MLA to suspend or terminate funding in the event a breach of the terms and conditions by the County Council. This would also affect the Sub Regional Projects where, under the terms of the agreements with the recipients, the County Council would remain committed to providing funding for these projects. It is highly unlikely that this provision would be invoked and, if it were, issues of materiality, proportionality and reasonableness would come into consideration. Further, a breach of condition is most likely to occur where there is failure in performance by a grant recipient. In this event, there is provision to claw back the grant funding awarded to that recipient.
- 5.2. The RSE funding agreements do give rise to a certain amount of risk for the County Council, but the overall assessment is that this is acceptable in the light of the clear benefits arising from the Renaissance programme to the County Council and the people of Hampshire.

### **6. Recommendation**

That the Executive Member for Culture and Recreation:

- i. Notes the progress made on the implementation of the Renaissance South East Business Plan
- ii. Approves the funding arrangements set out in the report
- iii. Authorises officers to conclude the required funding agreements.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:****Links to the Corporate Strategy**

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>		
<u>Title</u> Renaissance South East	<u>Reference</u> 920	<u>Date</u> 10 September 2009
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

1.1. The objectives of the RSE Business Plan 2009-11 and the provisions of the funding agreement with the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council are designed, in part, to ensure that services are delivered effectively to all parts of the community, with a particular focus on under-represented groups. It is therefore expected that the proposals will have a positive effect on equality and diversity.

### **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

2.1. It is expected that the proposals will have no direct impact on crime and disorder.

### **3. Climate Change:**

a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

No impact anticipated

b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

No impact anticipated