

For publication

Stephenson Memorial Hall Project Arts Council Grant (G1000L) (Delegated under Cabinet Minute No. 70 2021/22)

Meeting:	Delegated decision by Cabinet Member for Town centres and visitor economy
Date:	4 May, 2022
Cabinet portfolio:	Town centres and visitor economy
Directorate:	Leisure, Sport and Cultural Wellbeing
For publication	

1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 To recommend that the Council accepts the offer of a grant from Arts Council England towards the Stephenson Memorial Hall.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the Council accepts the offer of a grant of £695,000 from Arts Council England towards the Stephenson Memorial Hall Project.

2.2 That the Council accept the terms and conditions of the grant as detailed in Appendix 1.

3.0 Reason for recommendations

3.1 To ensure that the Council receives additional funding towards the Stephenson Memorial Hall project, and the building is restored and refurbished so that it can be enjoyed by the residents and visitors of Chesterfield for many years to come.

3.2 The grant offer has to be accepted within one month of the offer date which was 5th April 2022, and therefore this is treated as an urgent matter.

4.0 Background

- 4.1 The Stephenson Memorial Hall project was approved by Cabinet on 14th December 2021 and by full Council on 15th December 2021.
- 4.2 In Appendix 15 of the main report submitted to Cabinet and Council, there was an addendum which provided further financial information about the project. In Table 3 of Section 2.5 a grant opportunity of £695,000 was identified.
- 4.3 This reference was to an ongoing application to Arts Council England for capital funding towards the costs of installing a ventilation system into the auditorium of the Pomegranate Theatre, and installing a Changing Places toilet in the building.

5.0 Arts Council Grant

- 5.1 An application was submitted to the Capital Investment Programme of the Arts Council of England in December 2021.
- 5.2 On 5th April 2022, the Arts Council contacted the Cultural Services Manager with a formal offer letter of a grant of £695,000. Within the offer there were a list of terms and conditions for the grant.
- 5.3 Following discussions with other Council officers, it was agreed that the formal offer together with the terms and conditions of the grant should be circulated to the Stephenson Memorial Hall Project Board for their review and approval.
- 5.4 The Project Board reviewed the offer letter and terms and conditions on Thursday 28th April 2022, and the offer was formally accepted.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 The finances of this project were detailed in the Cabinet report approved on 14th December 2021, which was subsequently approved by Council on 15th December 2021. The estimated total cost of the project, £17,389,707, is detailed in Table 2 in Section 6.6. of the Cabinet report.
- 6.2 This grant opportunity of £695,000 was identified in In Table 3 of Section 2.5.

6.3 This is a grant towards installing a ventilation system into the auditorium of the Pomegranate Theatre, and installing a Changing Places toilet in the building. The total costs of these works are estimated at approximately £1,040,000. The Arts Council have offered a grant of £695,000 towards these works with the Council required to provide the balance of £345,000 in partnership funding.

6.4 This partnership funding is going to be funded by receipts from the Theatre Restoration Levy which is a separate Council fund.

7.0 Implications for consideration - Legal

7.1 One of the conditions of accepting the grant is that the Council agrees to a 15 Year Deed of Covenant with restriction on title over the freehold title of the Stephenson Memorial Hall. This is to provide security to the grant awarded over the assets assisted by the grant. In addition the Council has to provide satisfactory legal documents required to include Certificate of Title, Legal Opinion and Letter of Undertaking as to registration at the Land Registry.

7.2 The Council's legal officers have confirmed that this condition is acceptable.

8.0 Implications for consideration - Human resources

8.1 There are no human resources or people management implications from these proposals.

9.0 Implications for consideration - Council plan

9.1 The project is included within the Council plan and the implications have been detailed in the Cabinet report approved on 14th December 2021.

10.0 Implications for consideration - Climate change

10.1 The project has a broadly positive impact on climate change and the implications have been detailed in the Cabinet report approved on 14th December 2021

11.0 Implications for consideration - Equality and diversity

11.1 There are no impacts for Equalities and diversity from these proposals

12.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

12.1 As with any grants, there are some identified risks, which are summarised below:

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
Not meeting the terms and conditions of the grant	Medium	Low	Close management of the grant administration process	Low	Low
Not being able to provide the partnership funding of the grant	Medium	Low	Monitoring of the receipts of the Theatre Restoration Levy	Low	Low

13.0 Alternative options to be considered

13.1 An alternative option would be to not to accept the grant from the Arts Council England. However, as at December 2021, the Council currently has to undertake prudential borrowing of £4,452,960 for the total project scheme. By accepting this grant of £695,000, the Council will, other things being equal, be able to reduce its prudential borrowing by the same amount, which is approximately 16% of the total.

Decision information

Key decision number	1049
Wards affected	All wards

Document information

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Background documents
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.

This must be made available to the public for up to 4 years.

Appendices to the report

Appendix 1

Arts Council of England Grant Offer Letter and
Terms and Conditions.