

Report to the Executive



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PORTFOLIO	Leisure
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Burnley Mechanics: 'MI Space' Heritage Grant Application

PURPOSE

- To notify the Executive of an initial Stage 1 Application to the Heritage Lottery Fund and to seek authority of the Executive to submit a Stage 2 application.

RECOMMENDATION

- The Executive is recommended to:
 - Note that an initial Stage 1 application has been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore and improve the Mechanics.
 - To authorise the Head of Green Spaces and Amenities, working with Burnley Leisure, to prepare and submit a Stage 2 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, if the Stage 1 application is successful.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- The authority of the Executive is required to submit a grant application that exceeds £100,000.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

- Burnley Mechanics Institute was opened in 1855 and provided educational and cultural facilities for Burnley's rapidly expanding working population. The institute closed in 1959 and was re-opened in 1960 as a theatre and later underwent a major refurbishment in the 1980's.
- Now operated by Burnley Leisure, the Mechanics is a dynamic cultural resource for the Borough, attracting over 76,000 visits last year and won the Lancashire Tourism Award 'Cultural Venue of the Year' accolade in 2016.

6. However, to secure the future financial sustainability of the Mechanics, investment is needed and in a number of areas:
 1. Bringing into use the lower ground floor (currently un-used) as classroom, exhibition, training and workshop space to generate new revenue. This is the space formerly occupied by Mid Pennine Arts.
 2. Improving toilets, disabled access and other facilities to improve visitor experience.
 3. Replacing the roof and undertaking other vital restoration of the buildings fabric, to ensure that the building remains watertight.
 4. Investing in energy efficiency to reduce revenue costs.

7. **HLF Heritage Grants**

The Heritage Lottery Fund offers Heritage Grants for projects that will achieve the HLF's three key outcomes:

1. Heritage that is better managed
2. Heritage that is in better condition
3. Heritage that is better interpreted and explained

There is a 3 stage process to secure funding, as outlined below:

8. **Stage 1. Initial Application**

Burnley Leisure secured a small grant from the HLF in 2016 which was used to prepare an application for a Development Grant. The application was submitted under the Council's name (as building owner) in August. The Council and Burnley Leisure will each contribute £5,000 from existing revenue resources as match funding.

8. **Stage 2. Development Grant**

The Council will hear in late December whether the project has been awarded the Development Grant of £117,500 from the HLF and Burnley Leisure will then have 1 year in which to develop the project and submit a detailed Stage 2 application and cost plan.

9. **Stage 3. Implementation Grant**

If a Stage 2 approval is secured, it is likely that the project will start in early 2020. It is estimated that the overall cost of the scheme will be £3 million with the Council contributing £300K of capital money and £40K from the building maintenance revenue budget as match funding. This contribution will cover the costs of replacing the roof of the Mechanics. Approval for the Council's contribution will be sought from the Executive through the Council's Capital Programme.

10. The application process is highly competitive and the limited amount of funding available is oversubscribed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

11. If the stage 1 application is successful, the Council will contribute £5,000 from the revenue budget as match funding.

If the stage 2 application is successful, the Council will need to contribute £300K from capital resources and £40K from the building maintenance revenue budget as match funding.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

12. The Burnley Mechanics is an important cultural asset

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

13. Friends of Thompson and Queens Park.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

14. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

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ALSO:

**Helen Jones, Head of Cultural Services,
Burnley Leisure**