

Report of	Head of Community Services	Author	Rachel Macfarlane ☎ 01473 433556
Title	Colchester + Ipswich Museums application to the Arts Council England (ACE) National Portfolio Investment Programme (NPO) 2018/19-2021/22		
Wards affected	'Not applicable'		

This report concerns Colchester + Ipswich Museums application to the Arts Council England (ACE) National Portfolio Investment Programme (NPO) 2018/19-2021/22

1. Decision(s) Required

- 1.1 Approve the submission of an Arts Council England (ACE) four year National Portfolio Investment Programme (NPO) 2018/19-2021/22 bid for Band 1 funding by Colchester Borough Council in respect of our Joint Museum Service with Ipswich Borough Council.
- 1.2 To delegate authority to the Head of Community Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to sign off and submit the bid in line with Arts Council England deadlines.

2. Reasons for Decision(s)

- 2.1 CIMS is not currently in receipt of NPO funding and competition will be strong. While there is no guarantee that the submission of a bid will result in an award, continuous improvements and investment in Colchester's heritage is a key part of our Strategic Plan and of importance to residents and visitors. As such the Council feels it is important to seek out and respond to funding opportunities.
- 2.2 Delegated authority to the Head of Community Services provides the maximum time and opportunity for input and work on the final bid submission which is subject to a tight timescale and online portal process.

3. Alternative Options

- 3.1 To not proceed with an application to ACE for NPO funding 2018/19-2021/22

4.0 Supporting Information

- 4.1 Ipswich Borough Council and Colchester Borough Council formed the Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service (CIMS) in 2007 for a period of 11 years (2007-2018) under a joint agreement. The joint agreement was renewed in 2015 for a further 6 years (2015-2021).
- 4.2 Arts Council England supports arts and culture by funding National Portfolio Organisations to help them to deliver their strategic goals as outlined in Great Art and

Culture for Everyone. ACE is seeking applications to its National Portfolio Investment Programme 2018/19 – 2021/22.

- 4.3 ACE previously had a dedicated strand of funding for museums and museums receiving this grant are known as Major Partner Museums (MPM). There are currently two MPMs in the East of England region – Cambridge University Museums and Norfolk Museums. There will no MPM organisations from 2018/19. Funded organisations will be known as NPOs and be integrated with ACE funded arts and libraries. It is expected that a number of Arts organisations in Colchester will also apply for NPO funding.
- 4.4 Other key changes introduced at this round are an extended four year funding period (2018-22), and four categories in NPO. These include the following bands: Band 1 (£40,000-£249,999 pa), Band 2 (£250,000 - £1m pa), Band 3 (Over £1m pa), or as sector support organisations. An application is proposed falling within funding Band 1.
- 4.5 The application will support the five goals set out in ACE's strategic guidance document, Great Art and Culture for Everyone, and specifically goals 1, 2, and 5 (as required for Band 1)
- 4.6.1 The NPO application will describe how CIMS activity supports ACE Strategic Goals:
- 1: Excellence is thriving and celebrated in the arts, museums and libraries.
 - 2: Everyone has the opportunity to experience and to be inspired by the arts, museums and libraries
 - 5: Every child and young person has the opportunity to experience the richness of the arts, museums and libraries. How CIMS supports this goal will be included in response to the sections of the applications covering goals 1 and 2, as advised by ACE.

5. Strategic Plan References

- 5.1 An application for NPO funding supports the CBC strategic plan by helping to:

'Make more of Colchester's great heritage and culture so that people can enjoy them and draw inspiration for their creative talents'

'Promote Colchester's heritage and wide ranging tourism attractions to enhance our reputation as a destination'

'Improve sustainability, cleanliness and health of the place by supporting events that promote fun and wellbeing'

6. Consultation

- 6.1 Consultation to inform the bid will include key partners and reference to audience feedback.

7. Publicity Considerations

- 7.1 Applicants are informed of the outcome by 1 July 2017.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 ACE NPO funding, if awarded, will fund a consistent amount each year over the 4 years of funding.

- 8.2 An application to ACE for NPO funding of approximately £250,000 per year for 4 years, 2018-2022, will amount to £1 million of additional funding to museums for this period.

9. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

- 9.1 This report involves a decision to apply for external funding for the museum services and as such does not have any identified negative impacts for persons with protected characteristics within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010

Background Papers

None