

<b>REPORT TO:</b>		Cabinet	
<b>DATE:</b>		21 June 2023	
<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>		<b>Cllr Mohammed Younis – Levelling Up</b>	
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>		Steve Riley, Executive Director (Environment)	
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>		National Lottery Heritage Fund Submission	
<b>EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)</b>	<b>No</b>	Not applicable	
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	<b>No</b>	If yes, date of publication:	

## 1. **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report sets out the recommendation that has been made by the Town Centre Stakeholder Board for the Council’s submission into the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). The report asks for delegated authority to submit a proposal to the National Lottery on the basis of this recommendation.

## 2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet support the recommendation of the Town Centre Stakeholder Board and delegate authority to the Executive Director (Environment) following consultation with the Portfolio Holder to prepare and submit a £5 million Development Plan to the National Lottery that reflects the recommendation as set out in paragraph 4.1 of this report.

## 3. **Background**

- 3.1 Bradshaw Advisory (BA) have demonstrated their effectiveness through working with the Town Centre Stakeholder Group/Board, Members and council officers to crystallise a new town centre vision, the production of the TCIP and the submission of the Council’s LUF bid and, more recently, UKSPF investment plan. In June 2022, Cabinet gave approval to appoint BA to undertake further work, specifically:

- The creation of a TCIP funding strategy through the systematic review and appraisal of the different possible funding routes of interest to HBC, against each of the TCIP interventions through their award size, themes, criteria, bid timetables and any specific requirements (e.g. RIBA Stage 2 design, funding timelines).
- To provide relevant advice and detailed knowledge around other funding bids within the wider ‘Levelling Up’ agenda that may be available to the Council.

- 3.2 Given the Council’s LUF and UKSPF funding only provide for the acquisition of Market Chambers, plus some façade improvements and roof repairs, BA’s funding strategy

search was initially focused on identifying funding which would support the redevelopment of Market Chambers and create the proposed Heritage and Culture Centre within Market Chambers.

- 3.2 BA identified the NLHF as a good fit, given the criteria for potential funding:
- up to £5m financial ask.
  - must involve at risk heritage (can be objects, stories/experiences or buildings).
  - must help reach a wider group of people (e.g. people from lower socio-economic backgrounds, ethnic minorities, young people).
  - must offer good value for money. The larger the financial ask of the fund the more mandatory outcomes, (set by NLHF) must be met and to a greater degree.
- 3.3 The NLHF application process is split into 3 separate phases: a short Expression of Interest, a more detailed Development Plan and finally a full designed, costed and 'shovel ready' Delivery Plan. Each submission is assessed and if approved, the applicant is then invited to progress to the next stage. The Council submitted an Expression of Interest in September 2022 and at the end of October, the Expression of Interest had been considered by the Funding Panel for the North who subsequently invited the Council to progress to the Development Plan Stage. The Council will be submitting an application by noon, 17 August 2023 and hopes to receive a decision by the end of December 2023.
- 3.4 BA advised the Council to utilise the same process to filter ideas/concepts which was adopted for the TCIP and LUF funding submission, drawing heavily on the consultation workshops, resident polling to answer two initial gatekeeping questions.
- 1) Is heritage central to the idea/proposal?
  - 2) Does the idea align with the Accrington vision from the TCIP?

Where an idea/concept meets the two questions, each case was then scored using the following criteria.

- 1) Costs and VfM - does the idea offer good value for money?
- 2) Is the idea/proposal deliverable and within funding timescales?
- 3) Stakeholder/public support - is there evidence from polling/stakeholder workshops of support?
- 4) Does the idea/proposal align well with NLHF criteria and outcomes?

The scoring process allowed each idea/proposal to then be ranked. The proposals and rankings were presented to the Culture Heritage Investment Panel on 6 June 2023 and they reviewed all the suggestions and made a recommendation to the Town Centre Stakeholder Board at its meeting on the 8 June.

#### 4.0 **Development Phase Submission**

- 4.1 The Town Centre Stakeholder Board's recommendation to the Council is that its National Lottery Heritage Fund submission for Market Chambers should be focused around the following theme/proposal.

*Hyndburn is global. Its inventions and their impacts have changed the course of history. Its social fabric has been shaped by the world. The North and the UK's story is interweaved with that of Hyndburn's.*

*We will tell that global story and impact through the lived experiences of local people - including children and those of South Asian heritage. Those stories, noises, sights, feelings and smells will be told in an immersive way using modern technology including virtual reality, soundscapes and lighting aligned with collections and physical objects.*

## **5. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection**

- 5.1 The Council could choose not to submit a development stage proposal. This has been rejected as the NLHF has been identified as a good funding fit with the Council's heritage led town centre regeneration proposal for Market Chambers.

## **6. Consultations**

- 6.1 Stakeholder consultation meetings have been held through March and April, a representative sample of 500 residents was undertaken from 9 May, (the same number used for the TCIP polling). A wider public consultation opened on the 26 May and will close on the 12 June. The wider Town Centre Stakeholder Group and Culture, Heritage and Investment Panel members have also been involved in the consultations.
- 6.2 The Council has been in regular dialogue with officers from NHLF, Historic England and the Arts Council during the development of the TCIP, and all were very supportive of the Council's town centre regeneration plans and LUF intervention projects. The Council has also hosted two visits from the Historic England's Historic Places Panel. The feedback from both visits has been extremely useful and the Panel was very excited about Accrington' prospects and have committed to working with the Council on this opportunity.
- 6.2 If the Council is successful with the Development Stage submission, further consultations with residents, businesses etc. will be undertaken during a 12 to 18 month period and submitted as evidence to support a Delivery Stage submission.

## **7. Implications**

<b>Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)</b>	The Council had already approved funding for BA to undertake a funding strategy and prepare and submit a funding bid where there is likely a high degree of success.  If the Council is successful in its Development Stage submission, the Fund allows for approximately 10% (£500,000) to be drawn down and used during this phase to develop a Delivery Fund submission which, if
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	<p>successful, would unlock the remaining £4.5m of external funding.</p> <p>Whilst NHLF funding would be used for the capital works to redevelop Market Chambers, there will be ongoing revenue required to manage and operate the centre. This would be either through specific external revenue funding stream/s, income generated from within the facility, annual grant from the Council or a combination.</p>
<b>Legal and human rights implications</b>	<p>The Council will be required to enter into a Development Stage funding agreement, subject to the development plan submission being accepted. A further funding agreement is likely if the Council is then successful with a Delivery Stage submission.</p>
<b>Assessment of risk</b>	<p>This is an opportunity to receive substantial external funding and officers believe there is a low level of risk associated with doing so.</p> <p>The final designs/costs of the project will only be finalised at the Delivery Stage submission so there is a risk that the £5m NHLF funding may not be sufficient. If this was confirmed, the redevelopment could be undertaken in a phased approach whilst further funding bids were submitted, the Council could consider an element of match funding from its own reserves or a combination.</p> <p>There is the risk that the Council cannot acquire all the interests in Market Chambers by agreement and this risk is being mitigated by the Council recommending the making of a CPO.</p>
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b> <i>A <a href="#">Customer First Analysis</a> should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i>	<p>Not applicable for this report but a full analysis / Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the National Lottery Development Stage funding work.</p>

**8. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:  
List of Background Papers**

8.1

<https://democracy.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/documents/s16108/TCIP%20-%20Main%20Report.pdf>