

Report on Authority to enter into a grant agreement with West Yorkshire Combined Authority for the WOW Barn

Date: 27 March 2023

Report of: Executive Manager, LEEDS 2023 Partnership

Report to: Chief Officer, Culture and Economy

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

As part of the LEEDS 2023 Year of Culture, a signature event called the WOW Barn will take place in April and May 2023, with funding for the event secured from WYCA's Gainshare fund by Leeds City Council. This report supports a delegated decision to enter into a grant agreement with WYCA for the WOW Barn for a sum of £551,672.

Recommendations

- a) The Chief Officer for Culture and Economy is asked to authorise the City Council to enter into grant agreement with West Yorkshire Combined Authority for a sum of £551,672 from WYCA's Gainshare fund. This funding will then be channelled in full to Leeds Culture Trust who will deliver the WOW Barn project and who will manage all WOW Barn expenditure.
- b) It is recommended that the decision is made exempt from call in. The reasons for this exemption are set out in section 19 of this report under legal implications.

What is this report about?

- 1 This report supports a decision to enter into a grant agreement with WYCA. The funds will cover the development costs for the WOW Barn project to be delivered by Leeds Culture Trust (LCT) as a signature event in the LEEDS 2023 Year of Culture. The funds will be channelled in full to Leeds Culture Trust to deliver the project and manage expenditure.
- 2 A grant agreement is already in place between Leeds City Council and Leeds Culture Trust to oversee a £10,665,000 investment in LEEDS 2023 over a five-year period from FY2018/19 to FY2023/24 and the reporting mechanisms are well established.
- 3 It is proposed that the £551,672 WYCA funding is managed through the Leeds City Council grant agreement. The grant agreement requires robust reporting on the impact of LEEDS 2023 and is being refreshed to ensure specific outcomes from the WOW Barn project are reported whilst also capturing the wider benefits of the funding commitment to the year of culture. The refreshed grant agreement will be signed by the end of March 2023.
- 4 This grant agreement will be followed by a further grant agreement between WYCA and LCC for the remaining sum of £ 948,328 which was approved by WYCA Culture Committee on 26.1.23 for the WOW Barn project. This will bring total funding from WYCA's Gainshare fund to be channelled to LCT for the WOW Barn to £1.5m.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 5 The grant will fund the development costs for the WOW Barn, a major signature event for LEEDS 2023 Year of Culture. The event will be managed by Leeds Culture Trust in partnership with the Women of the World Foundation, led by Jude Kelly.
- 6 The WOW Barn will address the gender disparity in the construction industry by offering the opportunity for women and non-binary people to raise the barn in 24 hours, as well as offering programming opportunities and commercial opportunities through an on-site marketplace.
- 7 WOW Barn plans to deliver direct benefit for circa 12,000 regional participants and indirect benefits to a broad audience of up to 500,000 while promoting positive social attitudes toward women and girls.
 - 3,000 female or non-binary students in Leeds and West Yorkshire will be reached through the call out to be a Barn Raiser. A further 12,000 will receive comms about the programme.
 - 320 people contributing to the design of the barn by participation in Think-Ins
 - 15 young people from across W Yorkshire learning new skills in leadership, creative skills and increased confidence through participation in WOWsers.
 - 150 women and girls given training and developing skills through hands-on experience in construction and design, an area in which women are traditionally under-represented.
 - 150 professional women from the construction industry volunteering to share their skills and participating in an inspiring creative experience.
 - 500 girls / non-binary students given the opportunity to participate in STEAM activities, exposing them to new skills and inspiring them to pursue further studies.
 - 340 women and girls given the opportunity to co-create a world class creative programme of events, developing their creative skills, increasing their confidence and giving them voice and influence.
 - 2,000 women given the opportunity to showcase their businesses at a marketplace.
 - 2,000 people inspired by the build and the programme through participation in the physical activities including 500 KS3 students (girls and non-binary) participating at the WOW Youth Festival at the Barn.
 - A further 450,000 people inspired by the build and the programme through their online participation.
 - Community ties built through selection of participants from West Yorkshire's diverse communities, boosting engagement in culture from people who face barriers because of their experience or circumstances and involving them in community action.

- Through this project, LEEDS 2023 will build on the strong collaborative working relationship between Leeds, Calderdale, Wakefield, Bradford and Kirklees and help grow the cultural capital of the region and the active participation of women and girls within it. The project will be used particularly to develop the women who might be involved in Bradford 2025.
- Through the internationally successful WOW festival model which Jude Kelly pioneered at the Southbank Centre, learning and knowledge will be brought into the region along with new international connections.

8 Other benefits are expected to include:

- Increased national and international profile for Leeds
- Enhanced employment levels in the area
- Increased visitor spending

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 9 The WOW Barn will provide health and wellbeing benefits for many communities and families by providing a focal point for celebrating our varied cultures and the contributions of the diverse citizens of Leeds, particularly women, girls and non-binary people.
- 10 Inclusive Growth sits at the heart of the WOW Barn, as the project puts forward the need to promote and influence equality of opportunity from education to employment for women and girls. Seeking to effect change, WOW Barn plans to deliver direct benefit for circa 12,000 regional participants and indirect benefits to a broad audience of up to 500,000 while promoting positive social attitudes toward women and girls. The basis for this need for change is clearly illustrated by the gender disparity in the construction industry.
- 11 LEEDS 2023 is producing carbon impact assessments for the WOW Barn project as well as all other signature events, making them trailblazers in terms of their approach to sustainability and zero carbon. All LEEDS 2023 staff are receiving carbon literacy training and the aim is to make the Cinder Moor WOW Barn site plastic free.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: Headingley and Hyde Park, Little London and Woodhouse

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 12 The WOW Barn will be sited on Cinder Moor and will impact two wards. Ward Councillors for both Little London and Woodhouse and Headingley and Hyde Park wards were briefed and consulted on plans for the WOW Barn, including funding arrangements, on 20.2.23.
- 13 The Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education has been consulted on the WOW Barn and receives regular briefings on the progress of this major LEEDS 2023 signature event, including funding arrangements.

What are the resource implications?

- 14 The grant agreement will allow the draw down of £551,672 of development funding for the WOW Barn from WYCA by LCC. Leeds Culture Trust will then draw down this funding from LCC according to the terms of a new refreshed grant agreement between LCC and LCT.

- 15 This grant agreement for development funding will be followed by a further grant agreement between WYCA and LCC for the sum of £ 948,328 for the WOW Barn which was approved by WYCA Culture Committee on 26.1.23. This will bring total funding from WYCA for the WOW Barn to £1.5m.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 16 A full and detailed Risk Assessment has been produced for the construction and operating of the Barn during this phase of project development, The project will comply with the Construction Design Management (CDM) regulations, with suitably competent persons overseeing the process. The identified risks and mitigations have been deemed acceptable by WYCA.
- 17 Working with The Culture Trust, Leeds City Council has established a City Readiness Board and associated sub-groups to support the successful delivery of LEEDS 2023. The structure has been established to coordinate and accelerate effective progress towards the Year of Culture, whilst helping to ensure that the LEEDS 2023 team achieves its stated strategic objectives and is aligned to council services wherever appropriate. It also provides a mechanism for escalating any risks or operational problems to be considered directly by council directors and the executive team of LEEDS 2023. Any significant issues accelerated to the City Readiness Board about the delivery of the WOW Barn are managed in this way.

What are the legal implications?

- 18 Under the Director of City Development's Sub-Delegation Scheme, the Chief Officer Culture and Economy has authority to discharge any function of the Executive in relation to Culture including arts and events.
- 19 The decision is not eligible for call-in as the grant needs to be sealed within the timescales set by WYCA and the funding secured for the WOW Barn project which is already in delivery.
- 20 Appendix 1 of this report contains a confidential grant agreement between LCC and WYCA. This is confidential as it sits under exempt information rule 10.4(3) in the council's access to information procedure rules, as it relates to the business and financial affairs of the Council and a third party.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 21 **Alternative Option 1 – Leeds Culture Trust to bid directly to WYCA for funding**
Leeds Culture Trust made several representations to WYCA to ask for direct financial support; however, it was decided that channelling the grant through LCC would be more effective, tapping into expertise within the council and allowing LCC to draw down funding from WYCA's new Investment Framework for Culture and Sport through the Gainshare fund. This approach would position Leeds as part of a programme of cultural festivals taking place throughout West Yorkshire, each attracting financial support from WYCA, between 2023 and 2025.
- 22 **Alternative Option 2 – Grant agreement between LCC and Leeds Culture Trust**
This grant agreement between WYCA and LCC could have sat alongside a separate grant agreement between LCC and Leeds Culture Trust on the delivery of the WOW Barn. However, for simplicity, it was decided that the terms of this WYCA grant could be incorporated in the refreshed, main grant agreement between LCC and LCT which sets out the terms for LCC's financial support for the LEEDS 2023 Year of Culture. This refreshed grant agreement will be signed by the end of March 2023.

How will success be measured?

- 23 Success will be measured by the full drawdown of funds and timely and accurate reporting.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

24 The timetable for payment requests and payment conditions can be seen below.

Milestone	Milestone Date
Milestone 1: £423,489 100 Days To Go - Programme announced Detailed Comms and PR Plan developed First Project Sustainability Strategy complete (living document) Project Manager (Construction) recruited Wowers workshops and Think-ins launched Detailed Site Assessment complete Full Business Case submitted Recruitment of key contractors and key technical staff complete Materials for Barn frame ordered	28.2.23
Milestone 2: £128,183 Site Licensing confirmed Sign-off on Site Design Plans DBS Checks and Safeguarding Training for workshop leaders. 50% of Industry professionals confirmed. Bootcamp workshops launched	31.3.23

25 The responsible officer will be the Executive Manager LEEDS 2023 Partnership, Culture & Economy. The Executive Manager will act as the main point of contact for liaison between LCT and WYCA and is also responsible for grant claims and reporting.

26 The WOW Barn will be raised over 24 hours between 30 April and 1 May 2023 and will then serve as an event space for a period of 3 weeks, including for the WOW Leeds Festival on 13 May.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Grant Agreement between West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Leeds City Council (confidential).

Background papers N/A