

Authority to enter into a grant agreement with National Art Collections Fund for the Hibiscus Rising Sculpture by Yinka Shonibare.

Date: 16 May 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 piece of public artwork known as Hibiscus Rising is to be created by the artist Yinka Shonibare and will be installed in Meadow Lane Green Space within the new Aire Park development. This report supports a delegated decision to enter into a grant agreement with National Art Collections Fund (operating as Art Fund) for "Hibiscus Rising" by artist and sculptor Yinka Shonibare in the sum of £200,000.

Recommendations

- a) The Chief Officer, Culture and Economy is asked to authorise the Council to enter into a grant agreement with Art Fund for "Hisibcus Rising" by Yinka Shonibare on terms summarised in the report for a grant of £200,000. This funding is a contribution towards the cost of fabrication and installation of the Shonibare sculpture in Meadow Lane Green Space, as part of the LEEDS 2023 Year of Culture programme.

What is this report about?

- 1 This report supports a decision to enter into a grant agreement with the Art Fund. The funds will contribute to the cost of a new landmark piece of public art to be created by the artist Yinka Shonibare. The artwork is being designed to commemorate the life of David Oluwale and to provide representation and aspiration to the community he came from. The artwork has been commissioned by Leeds Culture Trust (LCT) as a signature project in the LEEDS2023 Year of Culture.
- 2 This decision follows a Delegated Decision on ownership and maintenance of a new public artwork in memory of David Oluwale in Aire Park on 20 May 2022, approval from Executive Board on 22 June 2022 to front fund the cost of the artwork up to £1.83m and a subsequent Delegated Decision on 9 November 2022 to enter into a co-operation agreement with the Trust setting out roles and responsibilities with regard to delivering the project.
- 3 The co-operation agreement states that LCT will develop funding applications to various Trusts and Foundations, including The Art Fund, and that where appropriate, the Council will be the applicant and the recipient of the grant funding.
- 4 The co-operation agreement sets out that the Council shall provide a financial facility of up to £1.83m against which the Trust can draw down, whilst fundraising efforts progress. This financial facility was agreed by Executive Board on 22 June 2022 and is held against the capital programme contingency reserve. The amount held against the reserve is being reduced as fundraising progresses.
- 5 On entering into this grant agreement, the financial facility totalling £1.83m will be reduced by £200,000.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 6 The grant will contribute to an artwork which will help to promote equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within the local community and the wider city. The artwork will also help to address the issues raised in the recent statues review and strengthen the representation of Leeds' diverse communities. The events programme to be led by LEEDS2023 will have a cohesive impact on communities and give aspiration to the communities of African heritage by stimulating discussion of the issues which David Oluwale's life and death represent for Leeds today. Disabled access to the artwork and the wider Aire Park area will be ensured as part of the groundwork planning so that there is equal access to all communities to enjoy the artwork up close.
- 7 Other benefits are expected to include:
 - Increased national and international profile for Leeds
 - Enhanced employment levels in the area
 - Increased visitor spending
 - Improved commercial climate
 - Land value uplift

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

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 8 The grant will contribute to an artwork which will help deliver inclusive growth in Leeds by adding a significant and history making visitor attraction to Aire Park, the South Bank and the expanding city centre. It will provide health and wellbeing for many communities and families by providing a focal point for celebrating our varied cultures and the contributions of the diverse citizens of Leeds. The project is situated at the heart of Aire Park, a new green space being developed in the South Bank, encouraging people to visit green spaces. A sustainability statement in terms of process and materials has been prepared by the artist studio and a carbon impact assessment will be carried out for the project.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: Hunslet & Riverside

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 9 All ward councillors have been consulted on the Shonibare proposal in advance of the Executive Board decision on 22 June and city-wide community consultation has taken place, led by the David Oluwale Memorial Association.
- 10 The Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education and the Executive Member for Resources were consulted in May 2022 in advance of the Executive Board meeting where the principle of front-funding was agreed.

What are the resource implications?

- 11 The co-operation agreement signed on 9 November 2022 sets out that the Council shall provide a financial facility of up to £1.83m against which the Trust can draw down, whilst fundraising efforts progress. This financial facility was agreed by Executive Board on 22 June 2022 and is held against the capital programme contingency reserve. The amount held against the reserve is being reduced as fundraising progresses.
- 12 On entering into this grant agreement, the financial facility will be reduced by £200,000.

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

- 13 Given the current geopolitical context and cost of living crisis, fundraising efforts by LEEDS 2023 are being made more difficult. Consequently, a risk remains that the funding target may not be met within the timescale envisaged. However, entering into this grant agreement reduces the risk to the Council that funds will not be raised and reduces the financial facility by £200,000.

What are the legal implications?

- 14 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.
- 15 The proposal constitutes a significant operational decision taken by a Council Officer and is therefore not eligible for call-in.
- 16 The terms of grant agreement between the Council and Art Fund have been reviewed by the Procurement and Commercial Services Legal Team.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 17 LCT has already applied for funding from Art Fund for the LEEDS2023 Year of Culture and was unable to bid for further funding for the Shonibare artwork. The application for funding was therefore made by the Council and the Council is the recipient of the grant award.

How will success be measured?

- 18 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?

19 The payment schedule is as follows:

- a. 75% of the grant, or £150,000 on the signing of the grant agreement.
- b. 25% of the grant, or £50,000 will be paid when the Work is completed and installed and open to the public, with all parties including the artist satisfied with any final adjustments to the design and fabrication to be confirmed in a letter from the Council's Chief Executive to Art Fund's Director.

20 The responsible officer will be the Executive Manager LEEDS2023 Partnership, Culture & Economy. The Executive Manager will work with the Development Team from LCT to provide all required reports and supporting documentation.

21 The artwork is scheduled to be installed in summer 2023 in preparation for the unveiling as part of the LEEDS2023 Year of Culture in November 2023. The artwork shall be transferred to the Council at the end of the Year of Culture in December 2023 by means of a Deed of Gift.

Appendices

N/A

Background papers

N/A