

DECISION TAKER: CLLR THOMPSON – LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNICATIONS

REPORT TITLE: WINCHESTER EXCAVATIONS COMMITTEE REQUEST FOR FUNDING

23 MARCH 2020

Contact Officer: Susan Robbins Tel No: 01962 848 641 Email srobbins@winchester.gov.uk

WARD(S): ALL

DECISION:

1. That an offer of a grant totalling £20,000 to the Winchester Excavations Committee (WEC) be approved, subject to the following terms:
 - a) A grant funding agreement is entered into between Winchester City Council and WEC. The Council's grant funding agreement will stipulate that there is no repeat or additional funding during the grant agreement period from the City Council.
 - b) The funding is to be paid in four equal amounts of £5,000 p.a. each in the financial years 2020/21; 2021/22; 2022/23 and 2023/24.
 - c) Grant funding payment will be paid annually as above on receipt of an activity completion report outlining how the funding outcomes have been met.
 - d) This grant funding is subject to agreement on free or low cost online access and the finalisation of online access charging is delegated to the Corporate Head of Engagement in consultation with the Leader.
2. That the Service Lead – Legal be authorised to negotiate heads of terms and relevant documentation to enter into a grant funding agreement between Winchester Excavations Committee and the Council which provides the grant terms and conditions, inclusive of: project delivery milestones and timeframes, and clawback arrangements.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To support a one-off grant funding contribution to the Winchester Excavations Committee to support the continued publication of, and expanded public engagement in, the Winchester Studies.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Three options were considered following the request for funding support from Winchester Excavations committee:

- a) Do not fund at all. The desire to widen public access and interest in this work, whilst important, is not the main remit of WEC which is to publish the Winchester Studies. Additional support is needed to develop this area of activity. Therefore this option was rejected.
- b) Contribute a lower level of funding over a shorter period. Ad hoc and one off events and engagements do not help deepen interest in this work as they do not afford the ability to develop meaningful relationships and interactions with the public. This option was also rejected.
- c) Provide a phased contribution of £20,000 over four years (£5Kp.a). This is the recommended option as it provides sustained backing needed for the Winchester Excavations Committee to continue publication of the volumes and increase the interest in the Winchester Studies. The one-off support does not create a sense of dependency on the Council to fund future publications, but does demonstrate the wish to support this important body of work.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE:

n/a

APPROVED BY:

DATE:

Cllr Lucille Thompson

23 March 2020

LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNICATIONS – CLLR LUCILLE THOMPSON