

DECISION TAKER: CLLR ANNE WEIR, CABINET MEMBER FOR LOCAL ECONOMY

TITLE: WINCHESTER DESIGN FESTIVAL – REQUEST FOR PROJECT FUNDING

13 JANUARY 2020

Contact Officer: Susan Robbins, Corporate Head of Engagement Tel No: 01962 848 461 Email srobbins@winchester.gov.uk

WARD(S): ALL

DECISION:

- 1 That the Council offers a seed-corn grant contribution of £20,000 towards the Winchester Design Festival.
 - a) That 50% of the payment is made in 2019/2020 on signing of a funding agreement and the remaining 50% is paid in 2020/2021 on receipt of a project completion report outlining how the project outcomes have been met.
 - b) That the Council's funding agreement stipulate there should be no expectation of funding for repeat festivals.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To support a one-off grant funding contribution to the Winchester Design Festival to be held in October 2020.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Three options were considered following the request for funding support from Worthwhile Works:

- a) Do not fund at all but support through event promotion via the Council's Economy and Tourism & Arts teams. This is seen a valid approach once the festival is established, however in order to attract investment and become self financing a small level of working capital is required to launch the event. Therefore this option was rejected.

- b) Contribute funding over a longer period of three years at £20,000 each to enable the Festival to become established. This option was considered on the basis that it would help the festival to be self financing, however was rejected because it was felt that if the festival was valued by business community and sponsors it should be able to use this in the second year to host another event.
- c) Provide seed-corn funding to enable the first Festival to be held in 2020 with a one-off contribution of £20,000. This is the recommended option as it provides the initial confidence and backing needed for the organisers to build the event, attract other sponsors and to have enough working capital to launch the event. The one-off support does not create a sense of dependency on the Council to fund future festivals, but does demonstrate the wish to support this sector of the economy.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE:

None.

APPROVED BY:

DATE:

Anne Weir

13 JANUARY 2020

CLLR WEIR (CABINET MEMBER FOR LOCAL ECONOMY)