

## **Hambleton District Council**

**Report To:** Cabinet

**Date:** 5 July 2022

**Subject:** **Arts Projects**

**Portfolio Holder:** Leisure  
Councillor P R Thompson

**Wards Affected:** Northallerton Wards

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### **1.0 Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is for the Council to consider financial assistance for two arts projects in Northallerton as follows:
- 1.1.1 Imaginosity, a creative arts project that has been delivered at Mill Hill School through financial investment from the developers of Treadmills, which has the potential to roll out to other schools in the district.
- 1.1.2 Installation of a piece of public art at Treadmills.

### **2.0 Background**

#### Imaginosity

- 2.1 In 2018 the Wykeland Group appointed an Arts consultant to collaborate with Mill Hill Primary School, which is close to the Treadmills site, to develop a creative thinking project ('Imaginosity') to support the personal development of children.
- 2.2 In the three years since its inception a number of projects have been delivered at the school. These range from daily five-minute creative challenges, to delivering a 'Birds of Freedom' sculpture project. Pupils have also visited care homes helping residents to make flowers from recycled materials as well as 'flower-bombing' Northallerton Town Hall. In response to the pandemic, weekly creative challenges were set for the children to do at home. The next phase of the project is for the pupils at Mill Hill School to work with artists to explore ideas about 'connecting with their community'. Pupils will be supported by mentors from the local community and the project will culminate with a celebration event.
- 2.3 Imaginosity is an innovative and flexible programme that has the potential to extend to other schools; it can be adapted to their individual priorities and curriculum needs. The Imaginosity Arts consultant has created a partnership with Rural Arts in Thirsk (the only recognised Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation in the district) to create a sustainable governance infrastructure to facilitate the roll-out of the initiative to other schools.

- 2.4 A business case has been submitted to the Council containing three delivery model proposals to develop the programme and an abridged version of this is provided at Appendix 2. Imaginosity is seeking Council funding to move forward. It is recommended that Members consider Model 1 and provide £50,000 to match fund the £50,000 contribution offered by the Central Northallerton Development Company Limited. This will fund the 'enhanced' programme at Mill Hill School for a further 3 years plus a 1-year programme at Foundation Stage at one other primary school in the district.

#### Treadmills sculpture

- 2.5 There was always an ambition to create a piece of public art within the Treadmills scheme. Initial funding from the cultural programme, funded by Historic England and the Arts Council, was intended to establish a Heritage Arts Trail. As part of this several artists were invited to prepare proposals for a piece of art at Treadmills. Management Team reviewed the proposals received and agreed that the proposal by Ray Lonsdale would provide the most impact. The concept is to produce a statue of Sophia Constable who was incarcerated in the former prison for stealing a loaf of bread. The proposal is to create a 1.5 x life size sculpture as this is felt to be the right proportion for where it will be sited (see Appendix 1).
- 2.6 The proposal will cost £105,000 and Member approval is sought in this report to incur this expenditure. There is some funding already in place within existing programmes. £27,000 is allocated from the existing Cultural Programme, and a private sector contribution of £34,000 is being secured. Further grant sources are being pursued. Windfall income of £6,240 was achieved from a television production and Members are asked to allocate that to this scheme.

### **3.0 Link to Council Priorities**

- 3.1 Both projects have, or are, being developed to add value to the community as part of the redevelopment of the former prison site. Using the media of arts and culture the focus is on connecting people with their locality and heritage, to inspire young people and to encourage community cohesion.
- 3.2 These projects link to the Council's priorities for Enhancing Health and Wellbeing, through the delivery of creative projects that contribute to improving the mental and physical wellbeing of people, and also the Special Place to Live priority through community engagement and public art installations.
- 3.3 The development of a piece of public art at Treadmills supports the Council's priority of driving economic vitality; specifically supporting the development of Northallerton as a Vibrant Market Town through work to strengthen and revive the town's heritage.

### **4.0 Risk Assessment**

- 4.1 The match funding is secured for Imaginosity. If Members support the proposed contribution, the scheme will be delivered. With the Treadmills proposal, grant funding has not been secured at the time of writing the report. Therefore the level of Council support may increase if the decision is made to progress the commission.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 £50,000 of external funding has been secured by the Imaginosity project. If Members support Option 1 described in this report and agree a contribution, Council will need to allocate an additional £50,000 revenue budget for 2022/23. This will be funded from expected underspends in the year.
- 5.2 The cost of developing the Treadmills sculpture is £105,000. This is a capital project to round off the Treadmills scheme. Authority will be sought to incur this expenditure from Council. Funding of £67,240 has already been secured towards the project. However, a further £37,760 is required to enable the scheme to progress. Two funding applications have been submitted to Henry Moore Foundation and the Arts Council, but the outcome is several weeks away. Therefore Council would need to allocate a further £37,760 to the Treadmills Project to enable the commission to proceed. If the grant applications are successful then this contribution should reduce. It will be funded via the capital programme funding sources.

## **6.0 Legal Implications**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

## **7.0 Equality/Diversity Issues**

- 7.1 There are no equality and diversity implications associated with supporting these projects.

## **8.0 Recommendations**

- 8.1 Cabinet approves and recommends to Council that:
- (1) a revenue contribution of £50,000 towards the Imaginosity project is made;
  - (2) approval is sought to commission Ray Lonsdale to deliver the Treadmills public art scheme and incur £105,000; and
  - (3) an allocation of up to a maximum of £37,760 additional funding to the Treadmills project to fund the public art programme is made.

Steven Lister  
Director of Leisure and Communities

**Background papers:** None

**Author ref:** LW

**Contact:** Lisa Wilson  
Service Manager (Communities)  
01609 767149