

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	<b>Cabinet</b>	
MEETING DATE:	<b>13 July 2011</b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		<b>E 2253</b>
TITLE:	Voluntary Sector Museums and Heritage Grants 2011-2012	
WARD:	Various	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>		
Annex A – grant-aid criteria for independent museums and heritage bodies		
Annex B – detail of grant applications received		

### 1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The report describes the applications for revenue funding received from independent museums and heritage bodies for 2011-12 and recommends a number of awards to be made.

### 2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet agrees the award of the following grants for 2011-2012 and for officers to subsequently make a grant of up to £4,000 under delegated authority to Radstock Museum.

Applications received	Request £	Purpose	Recommendation £
Bath & NE Somerset Museums Group	5,000	Co-operative events programme [retained and funded direct by the Service]	5,000
Bath Postal Museum	3,022	Visual display equipment	2,400
Bath Royal Literary & Scientific Institution	2,000	Exhibition and meeting room plinths	0
Beckford Tower Trust	2,000	'Beckford's Ride' project	2,000
Building of Bath Collection	2,000	World Heritage events programme	1,000
Holburne Museum	4,474	Interpretation project for families and the visually impaired	3,415
Mayor's Honorary Guides	5,000	Walking tours of Bath for residents and visitors	5,000
Museum of Bath at Work	4,000	Two community exhibitions	3,500
No.1 Royal Crescent	1,600	Education and interpretation programme	1,000
Radstock Museum	5,000	Appointment of temporary staff and training for volunteers and trustees	4,000
Somerset & Dorset Railway Heritage Trust	4,000	Purchase of a road-rail vehicle	0
Total:	<b>38,096</b>		<b>27,315</b>

### 3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Financial Plan contains a sum of £31,210 for annual grants to independent museums and heritage bodies in 2011/12.
- 3.2 Applications for a total of £38,096 have been received. Recommendations are made here for the award of £27,315 against the grant-aid criteria agreed by the Cabinet Member in 2010 (attached as Annex A), with the possibility of a grant of up to £4,000 being made later in the financial year under delegated authority. It is proposed that the balance of £5,000 be retained to support community events during 2011/12. The balance of £3,895 will be allocated to supporting community events hitherto funded by grants from the Museums Libraries & Archives Council.

### 4 CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 4.1 The grants recommended will contribute to some or all of the following:
- Building communities where people feel safe and secure;
  - Promoting the independence of older people;
  - Improving life chances of disadvantaged teenagers and young people;
  - Sustainable growth.
- 4.2 The Council's place-shaping vision is to 'make Bath & North East Somerset an even better place to live, work and visit', by building on the area's uniqueness to make the district a distinctive place:
- with an outstanding built and natural environment, dynamic economy, connectivity, world class arts and culture;
  - with vibrant and sustainable communities that are active, healthy and inclusive, feel safe, take responsibility and make a contribution, are carbon neutral and where disadvantaged and vulnerable are supported and protected and people feel proud to live;
  - where everyone fulfils their potential, has equal opportunity to learn and develop skills, enjoy a healthy lifestyle, influence the future of their area and contribute to the economy and society.

### 5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The museums and heritage grant-aid criteria agreed by the Cabinet Member in 2010 are:
- **local distinctiveness** – the social, industrial, architectural and natural history that characterises places in Bath & North East Somerset and makes them special for people who live in them;
  - **new audiences** – reaching and engaging people who do not normally visit the museum or use the organisation's services;
  - **volunteers** – giving people opportunities to explore and celebrate the history of the district through volunteering while at the same time contributing to the financial viability of the organisation.

5.2 Annex B contains the detail of the grant applications.

## **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1 The report author and Lead Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

## **7 EQUALITIES**

7.1 Equalities Impact Assessments are conducted on the Unit Service Plan and Business Plans. There will be no impact on equality for any of the protected characteristics.

7.2 Grant awards are made on condition that the recipient organisation has an Equal Opportunities policy or statement, a Child Protection policy and can demonstrate that all staff or volunteers with unaccompanied access to children have been checked by the new Independent Safeguarding Authority.

## **8 RATIONALE**

8.1 The rationale behind the grant-aid criteria is to align them with the Council's vision and the Local Cultural Strategy.

8.2 The rationale behind the recommendations of sum to be awarded is that these applications most closely align with the grant-aid criteria. The grants recommended are all judged to contribute to local distinctiveness and aim to engage new audiences and volunteers.

## **9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

9.1 One option would be for no grants to be awarded in 2011/12. This option is not recommended.

9.2 Another option would be to take a less discerning approach and meet more of the requests made by applicants by allocating the full sum available. However in view of the inadequate information provided by some applicants and the inappropriate nature of some elements of the projects for which funding was sought, this option is not recommended.

## **10 CONSULTATION**

10.1 Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer.

10.2 Consultees were sent the draft report by e-mail in advance of its submission to Democratic Services for publication.

10.3 Consultation was carried out by email and in person.

## **11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION**

11.1 Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Young People.

## 12 ADVICE SOUGHT

12.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director – Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

<b>Contact person</b>	Stephen Bird, Head of Heritage Services 01225 477750
<b>Background papers</b>	None
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	

## Criteria for grant-aid to museums and heritage bodies.

March 2010

### Background.

The unusually dense concentration of museums and heritage sites in Bath & North East Somerset constitutes a significant component in its appeal as a destination for home market and international tourism. It also provides schools and the local community with a range of educational and leisure time opportunities.

A characteristic of independent museums and heritage sites which distinguishes them from other voluntary sector bodies is that they care for irreplaceable buildings, monuments or collections of original material, many of which relate to the history of the district. Like those owned by the Council, historic buildings and collections owned by independent charitable trusts are also held in trust for the benefit of the present and future generations. Because of the nature and location of these institutions, they often have high building-related and running costs.

### The Council's Vision.

The Council has developed an overarching and ambitious new place-shaping vision to '**make Bath & North East Somerset an even better place to live, work and visit**', by building on the area's uniqueness to make the district a distinctive place:

- with an outstanding built and natural environment, dynamic economy, connectivity, world class arts and culture;
- with vibrant and sustainable communities that are active, healthy and inclusive, feel safe, take responsibility and make a contribution, are carbon neutral and where disadvantaged and vulnerable are supported and protected and people feel proud to live;
- where everyone fulfils their potential, has equal opportunity to learn and develop skills, enjoy a healthy lifestyle, influence the future of their area and contribute to the economy and society.

The new vision will drive everything done to improve the quality of life for residents, underpinned by the Council's core values of quality and value with customer focus.

Priority will be given to grant applications which align with the Council's Vision and Key Priorities and contribute to objectives set out in the Cultural Strategy for Bath & North East Somerset.

The principal criterion will be that of:

- **local distinctiveness** – the social, industrial, architectural and natural history that characterises places in Bath & North East Somerset and makes them special for people who live in them.

In addition, consideration will be given to projects which seek to reach and engage:

- **new audiences** – people who do not normally visit the museum or use the organisation’s services; and
- **volunteers** – giving people opportunities to explore and celebrate the history of the district through volunteering while at the same time contributing to the financial viability of the museum.

Applications for ‘core funding’ (ie, non-project-led or commissioned funding) will not normally be considered unless it can be demonstrated that the museum is at serious risk of closure. Even then, an application for grant-aid will be considered and prioritised alongside applications received from other independent museums.

Applications from consortia of organisations proposing joint initiatives that meet the Council’s Key Priorities will be considered. The Council may also wish to propose its own projects and fund one or more museums to deliver them in partnership with or on behalf of the Council.

In view of the modest budget available and the number of potential applicant bodies, grant awards will be restricted to £5,000 and below.

#### **Eligibility Criteria.**

The eligibility criteria for museums and heritage bodies wishing to apply for grant-aid are that:

- a) the organisation is a registered charity or unincorporated body based in Bath and North East Somerset;
- b) the purpose of the grant is for the public benefit rather than that of the staff or trustees of the organisation;
- c) the organisation has an Equal Opportunities policy or statement, a Child Protection policy and can demonstrate that all staff or volunteers with unaccompanied access to children have been checked by the new Independent Safeguarding Authority;
- d) where the applicant is a museum, it is Accredited under the UK Museums Accreditation Scheme, its governing body endorses the Museums Association's Code of Ethics for Museums (revised 2008) and it is open to the public on a regular basis;
- e) the organisation participates in the Council’s annual Heritage Open Week;
- f) the organisation offers concessions to the district's residents through the Resident’s Discovery Card scheme and considers participation in other joint activities organised through the Heritage Services Heritage Events Co-ordinator.

### Grant applications have been received from the following:

1. **Bath & North East Somerset Museums Group:** requested £5,000 for a co-operative events programme to continue the work previously funded by the Museums Libraries & Archives Council. No grant is recommended as the Group does not have a bank account. It is recommended that £5,000 be retained by Heritage Services to support this programme directly.
2. **Bath Postal Museum:** requested £3,022 for a new visual display equipment and installation costs. A grant of £2,400 is recommended for two touch-screen display units to give public access to digital images of over 5,000 museum objects, many connected with Bath and Somerset.
3. **Bath Royal Literary & Scientific Institution:** requested £2,000 for display plinths for their exhibition and meeting room. The request does not align sufficiently with the criteria and no grant recommended.
4. **Beckford Tower Trust:** requested £2,000 for their 'Beckford Rides' landscape project of lectures, walking tours, Heritage Open week events, 'design a garden' activity, a downloadable educational activity and a volunteer training programme. A grant of £2,000 is recommended for Heritage Open Week materials (£300), walking tours fees and publicity (£500), design-a-garden activity (£700) and volunteers training and expense (£500).
5. **Building of Bath Collection:** requested £2,000 for World Heritage events programme. A grant of £600 is recommended for Museums at Night opening costs (£100) and Heritage Open Week activities resources (£500).
6. **Holburne Museum of Art:** requested £4,474 for their 'Hands On' interpretation project for families and the visually impaired. A grant of £3,415 is recommended for Art Cart materials (£500), Family museum trails (£1,500), Saturday Art Club materials (£360), marketing of family and interpretation activities (£500), volunteers training (£250) and CRB checks for volunteers and freelance staff (£305).
7. **Mayor's Honorary Guides:** requested £5,000 to support the Guides' walking tours of Bath. These provide local people with educational, leisure and volunteering opportunities, adding to Bath's appeal as a destination for home market and international tourism and enhancing residents' and visitors' appreciation and understanding of the district's heritage. A grant of £5,000 is recommended, conditional on the inclusion of World Heritage Site information in walking tours.
8. **Museum of Bath at Work:** requested £4,000 for two exhibitions to be created with community groups and schools, on 'Weston Village' and 'Seed, Crop, Harvest' looking at Bath's agricultural hinterland. A grant of £3,500 is recommended for exhibition creation (£3,250) and publicity (£250).
9. **No.1 Royal Crescent:** requested £1,600 for an education and interpretation programme. A grant of £1,000 is recommended for Museums at Night activities

(£300), Heritage Open Week workshop resources (£100), an historic re-enactment in October 2011 (£300) and an autumn lecture series on Georgian food and cookery (£300).

10. **Radstock Museum:** requested £5,000 for two displays: a Victorian Print Room, recognising the importance of the local printing industry and encouraging ex-printers to become volunteers; and Geological Minerals from the locality but internationally important. However due to recent and unforeseen circumstances, the Museum has notified officers that it wishes to refocus its grant request towards strengthening the management of the Museum as they deal with its current difficult circumstances. This will include additional costs for appointing temporary staff and training for trustees, staff and volunteers. Therefore no grant is recommended at this stage but officers request delegated authority to offer a grant of up to £4,000 for these purposes once their costs are known and report back to the Cabinet Member in due course.
11. **Somerset & Dorset Railway Heritage Trust:** requested £4,000 for the purchase of a road-rail vehicle. The request does not align sufficiently with the criteria and no grant recommended.