

22 November: Feedback meeting with Arts Council England.

29 November: Letter received from Arts Council England.

Feedback letter from ACE:

Applicant name: East Lindsey District Council

Project number: NPIP-00556915-MID-0000005491

Programme: 2023-26 Investment Programme

Congratulations on your successful application and, as discussed, I will be your Relationship Manager for this investment period.

I have provided some feedback based on the assessment and outlined the decision-making process below. You should take this feedback into account when completing your updated Activity and Investment Principles Plans.

Your application demonstrated that a strong contribution to the Outcomes is likely and your organisation is based in East Lindsey, which is a Priority Place.

We also noted the following key strengths during the assessment;

Outcomes

The delivery plan is clear and ambitious and there are a number of notable strengths for each outcome. For Creative People this includes a clear commitment to developing opportunities for CYP and the development of Creative Hubs (supported by Town Deal funding) to catalyse activities in partnership with schools and colleges, cultural and community organisations to champion local creative talent; Creative Communities is also aligned to 'Levelling Up and using Towns funding to develop new cultural amenities such as The Colonnade (Sutton on Sea) and better use of natural heritage throughout the year to provide more experiences for people; And Creative Country will support the development of locally-based talent and building a cultural workforce (to collaborate regionally, nationally and internationally).

Investment Principles

There are notable ambitions and actions under each Investment Principle. Inclusivity has a 3 year aim to address the challenges of talent loss and bridge building for the area's diverse populations and we note partnerships with Lincoln College and Lincoln University for this. Dynamism includes support for board & workforce development and will equip staff with the skills to support a proposed substantial increase in artist & community involvement; Ambition & Quality offers good realistic 3 year ambitions aligned to local strategic plans to mobilise new ways of working, including utilising digital technology, rural touring, and the re-animation of heritage for contemporary cultural practice; And Environmental ambitions are very specific in terms of local challenges and we note the statement that 'connecting culture to the natural environment through projects and infrastructure is critical'

Risk - The programme represents a minor risk for Governance and Management and a minor risk for Financial Viability.

We note the following areas for development;

- The NPO budget is presented in general terms and this needs to be developed in line with the agreed investment and activity as noted below.
- We also noted that there was reference to commissioning other ACE funded organisations and care should be taken to ensure there is no duplication of ACE funding.

Activity

We have made a reduced offer and the areas of work we expect to see preserved within the updated Activity Plan are activities 1, 3, 8 and 9 which, in summary, includes;

Programmes of work with schools and young people; Digitisation of collections; Working across heritage and museum sites to enable stronger cultural programming including a focus on heritage within arts; Engagement with the new Cultural Strategy; And embedding approaches to supporting the involvement of Children and Young People.

As per the application, we also expect to the development of three Creative Hubs to help deliver the activity (Boston Guildhall, Ayscoughfee Hall and The Colonnade at Sutton on Sea) and the establishment of a Culture Board to oversee the programme.

Funding agreement negotiation

I also wanted to provide you with a brief reminder of the process and key dates for funding agreement negotiation. You can find further information in the funding agreement negotiation letter attached to your conditional offer on Grantium.

By 20 January 2023 you must submit the following documents for the period April 2023 – March 2024, based on the activity applied for and taking account of the feedback provided above:

- a completed Activity Plan template
- a completed Investment Principles Plan template
- a completed financial template

You must use the mandatory templates provided, which can be found on the website here. Updated templates must be attached to the 'Submit updated plans for funding agreement negotiation' screen of the conditional offer notification on Grantium and submitted no later than 20 January 2023. If you fail to supply the requested information on time, we cannot guarantee we will be able to issue you a funding agreement in line with our published timescales.

If we feel that plans submitted in January require further development or revision, we will provide you with directive feedback and you may be asked to resubmit plans in April 2023 as a condition of first payment.

John Cairns, Relationship Manager, Creative Media

Arts Council England