

Subject: North of Tyne Culture and Creative Zones - Berwick
Report of: Principal Economy and Strategy Manager
Portfolio: Culture, Creative and Rural

Report Summary

This report provides an overview of the Culture and Creative Zone proposal for Berwick and includes a recommendation to a funding award of £1,500,000 of North of Tyne Investment Fund to Northumberland County Council for the Berwick Culture and Creative Zone.

Recommendations

The Chief Executive is recommended to

- i. approve £1,500,000 for the Berwick Culture and Creative Zone.

1. Background Information, Proposals and Timetable for Implementation

- 1.1 The North of Tyne Culture and Creative Zones programme is a place-based approach to investing in the development, sustainability and growth of the culture and creative sector, whilst regenerating high streets and local centres, and improving quality of life for local communities. The ambition is to establish North of Tyne as a supportive and attractive environment for creative and cultural businesses and practitioners to locate, start-up, grow, and flourish. The Zones will do this by investing in a range of interventions including: affordable creative workspace; business support; skills development; and community engagement. Each Zone will provide a visible access point through which creative people and businesses from anywhere in North of Tyne can access opportunities and support.
- 1.2 In March 2022, Cabinet agreed £5.235m for the Culture and Creative Zones programme focused on three Zones in Newcastle’s Clayton Street Corridor, North Shields Town Centre and Berwick-upon-Tweed. This included:
 - approvals for the Newcastle Clayton Street Corridor and the North Shields Cultural Quarter Zone projects;
 - an allocation for the Berwick Zone, with a delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor, appropriate Cabinet Member and Investment Panel, to approve funding for the Berwick proposal led by Northumberland County Council, subject to satisfactory completion of a full business case.
- 1.3 Following completion of an external appraisal of the full business case, approval of funding is now sought to support the development of the Berwick Zone. NTCA Investment Panel considered the proposal on 14th September 2022 and recommended to the Chief Executive that the £1,500,000 funding should be approved.
- 1.4 Proposal

Proposal Name	Berwick Culture and Creative Zone
Lead Organisation	Northumberland County Council
Delivery Areas	Berwick-upon-Tweed
Timescales	October 2022 – June 2027
Project Value	£1,616,072
NTCA Grant Requested	£1,500,000
NTCA Budget Implications	Cabinet has approved £5,235,000 for the Culture and Creative Zones programme. £3,395,000 of this has already been approved

	for two projects. If this project is approved that would bring the total to £4,895,000, with the remaining programme budget allocated for programme level expenditure, as previously agreed.
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1.5 The Zone is located in Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Centre between The Maltings and Berwick Barracks and will complement investment into the area of circa £22m. The aim is to create a continuous flow of people and creative activity within Berwick's town walls, whilst benefiting the people, businesses and communities of the whole Berwick area and beyond. The Zone will enhance the town's reputation, as a renowned arts town and celebrated cultural destination, and provide a supportive and attractive environment in which cultural and creative businesses and people can develop and thrive.

2. Potential Impact on Objectives

2.1 Programme delivery as described in the report is consistent with the priorities set out in NTCA's corporate plan.

3. Key Risks

3.1 The project risks have been considered as part of the application and appraisal process.

4. Financial and Other Resources Implications

4.1 £1,500,000 has been allocated to this proposal, for spend over five years from 2022/23 to 2026/27.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The comments of the Monitoring Officer are included in the report

6. Equalities Implications

6.1 As required by Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Combined Authority has considered its obligations regarding the Public Sector Equality Duty and there will be no anticipated negative impact on groups with protected characteristics from this proposal. Northumberland County Council have, and adhere to, an Equality and Diversity Strategy and are in line with the Public Sector Equality duty. They also conducted an Equalities Impact Assessment for the project, alongside the full business case.

7. Inclusive Economy Implications

7.1 All business case applications are required to set out an approach which contributes towards NTCA's ambitions for an inclusive economy. This has been assessed through the appraisal process and considered acceptable. The project sets out a range of interventions that will grow the cultural and creative economy of Berwick in an inclusive manner, providing opportunities and support for people in Berwick and the wider Northumberland and North of Tyne area.

8. Climate Change Implications

8.1 The Combined Authority has considered the implications relating to climate change in decisions regarding the delivery of Culture and Creative Zones and believe there will be no negative impact as a result.

9. Consultation and Engagement

9.1 The project business case is built upon detailed consultation conducted by Northumberland County Council, which the external appraiser commended in their report. In addition, there has been significant consultation with partners as part of the development of the Zones prospectus and

through the development process. The proposal has also been discussed at the Culture, Creative and Tourism Steering Group, Technical Officers Group and Investment Panel.

10. Appendices

10.1 None

11. Background Papers

11.1 North of Tyne Combined Authority Cabinet Meeting 22nd of March 2022 – Item 8
<https://www.northoftyne-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Supplemental-Agenda-22.03.2022-1.pdf>

12. Contact Officers

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13. Glossary

NTCA	North of Tyne Combined Authority
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14. Sign-off

Portfolio holder Yes	Director/SMT Yes	Chief Finance Officer: Yes	Monitoring Officer: Yes
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