
Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	Date:	3 November 2020
Report By:	Corporate Director Education Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/53/20/AW
Contact Officer:	Alana Ward, Service Manager	Contact No:	01475 712330
Subject:	Successful funding bid for the Watt Institution		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of a successful bid for £230,000 made by the Council to the National Lottery Heritage fund (NLHF).

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Although NLHF funding streams are currently closed to new applications, the body encouraged the funding application from Inverclyde Council to develop strongly inclusive engagement and outreach heritage activities in Inverclyde, using the Watt Institution as a key heritage asset, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. There was no match funding element required in the application.
- 2.2 Officers responded by developing a project proposal which would seek to re-interpret the museum collections, and in particular 'decolonise' same; fit out an unused office space as a Creativity Space to be used for creativity, discovery and learning; improve the Watt's digital offer; and engage with people and groups who do not traditionally visit the Watt Institution.
- 2.3 The NLHF have subsequently agreed to award Inverclyde Council the full grant amount. The project is due to start in January 2021.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of the report.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) closed all of its funding streams in order to divert its resources towards emergency funding for independent heritage institutions and groups. In addition, the funding body agreed to make funding available to its areas of “strategic focus”. There are 13 such areas in the UK and 2 in Scotland – Inverclyde and North Lanarkshire.
- 4.2 In July 2020, the NLHF solicited an application for funding from Inverclyde Council, specifically requesting an application for a grant of £230,000 to support a project to develop strongly inclusive engagement and outreach heritage activities in Inverclyde, using the Watt Institution as a key heritage asset, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. NLHF further requested that the project have a heritage focus associated with Inverclyde, particularly the colonial history of the area; that it would achieve the mandatory outcome that a wider range of people will be involved in heritage; and finally that the project should be delivered over a three year period.
- 4.3 Unusually, there was no match funding element for this project required from Inverclyde Council.
- 4.4 In response, officers developed a project entitled *Watt Voices*, which will achieve the following outputs:
 - Engage with a wide range of audiences and new groups to reinterpret the collections at the Watt Institution. Examine Inverclyde’s links to the transatlantic slave trade, focusing on the untold stories in the collections, rethinking the collections in relation to their origins and addressing historic omissions through the decolonisation of the collections.
 - Work with various partners to take a collaborative and co-design approach in developing project activities.
 - Build on existing community partnerships to develop long-term and meaningful engagement with groups who have previously been under-represented at the Watt Institution. Involve audiences severely impacted by provisions available as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and reach local communities who do not currently access the museum and its collections.
 - Explore, develop and deliver digital tools to reach wider audiences enabling interactive and participatory learning through new digital technology as well as increasing accessibility through the use of digital. Develop and install a new multipurpose space to work with new audiences for workshops, events and activities.
- 4.5 All project activity will be risk assessed, accounting for Covid-19 considerations. The health and safety of all staff, volunteers, partners, participants and contractors will be paramount at all times.
- 4.6 No posts will be created as part of this project, and where specialist skills are required, for example museum interpretation, evaluation etc, these will be procured.
- 4.7 Officers are currently finalising the project programme, cash flow, risk documentation, and briefs for commissioned work. The project will begin in January 2021.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Finance

There are no financial implications as all project costs will be contained within the sum requested.

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.2 **Legal**

There are no known Legal implications contained within this report.

5.3 **Human Resources**

There are no known Human Resources implications contained within this report and no posts will be created as a result of the project.

5.4 **Equalities**

Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
--------------------------	---

X	NO
---	----

5.5 **Repopulation**

The Watt Institution is a key part of Inverclyde's tourism, culture and heritage offer, providing services to visitors and residents of Inverclyde. This project will be an opportunity for significant investment into one of Inverclyde's best regarded heritage assets.

6.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

6.1 None

7.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None