

## OFFICER DELEGATED DECISIONS FORM

**State the Delegated Authority that you are relying on in order to make this decision:** e.g. specific (identified in constitution) or general

Delegated Authority approved to the Director of Regeneration and Culture in relation to awarding £37,000 Future High Street Fund to match funding the purchase of The Auxiliary, 51 Station Street, Middlesbrough.

This authority arises from the: ***Towns Fund and Future High Streets Fund*** Executive report of 27 May 2021. Citing recommendations A and D:

- a) approve the funding offer for Middlesbrough Council's funding bid for the investment of the Future High Street Fund (FHSF) allocation, which equates to a total of £14.1m, as detailed within Appendix A;
- b) That the Director of Regeneration and Culture and the Director of Finance be delegated approval to vire allocations beneath the £14.1m FHSF allocation, insofar as the objects of the programme and the outputs be consistent with the objectives of the bid, and subject to grant conditions and change control processes.

**Subject of decision:** e.g. freehold disposal of land (16K-149K), contract extension, new policy

The approved FHSF programme and bid set out provision for cultural investment which supported integration of culture within the high street setting, expansion and animation of cultural assets, supporting the cultural sector capacity and investing in events infrastructure.

This decision seeks to provide a match funding grant of £37,000 to the arts organisation 'Auxiliary'. The Auxiliary have secured £150,000 from Key Fund and £100,000 from Arts Council England, in order to purchase 51 Station Street and expand the offering at the building.

**Text of decision:** e.g. can include monies received by the Council, list any terms agreed, brief summary of the policy – Do not include any confidential information.

The Auxiliary are an artist led space that support over 25 artists through studio space, exhibition space and lead on Middlesbrough Art Weekender as well as Sonic Arts Week. They engage with over 10,000 residents every year and have successfully raised significant Arts Council England funding through their cultural recovery strand and project grants strand. They will be applying to and have been encouraged by Arts Council England to apply as a National Portfolio Organisation.

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The organisation are uniquely placed to secure National Portfolio status, providing a huge boost to the cultural infrastructure of central Middlesbrough and a platform from which to expand and support the cultural sector. To secure this third party match funding, the FHSF programme has been aligned to enable investment of £37,000 to secure the freehold purchase of the property and support the cultural sector.

**Reason for decision:** e.g. benefits, new legislation requires a policy, review of opening hours, non- key decision, outside of agreed budget framework

- The funding has been secured for the majority of the purchase of the building, the landlord may sell the building to another bidder if the council do not provide the match funding.
- This secures the organisations' place in Middlesbrough as a key player of the cultural sector.
- The funding objectives and outcomes are consistent with the approved business case and bid for FHSF funding allocation and programme objectives.

### **Other options considered (if any)**

There are no other arts organisations who have received capital external funding that have a gap in securing other funds. As such, by not providing the funding then the organisation will fail to acquire the property. This would severely reduce the chances of getting an additional National Portfolio organisation in Middlesbrough and this could result in the organisation relocating out of the town / area.

**Has an Impact Assessment been completed Yes/No** – if yes please attach to the decision.



No

### **Declarations of Interest by any member or relevant local government body**

N/A

**Who have you consulted as part of the decision making process** e.g. Head of

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Service, Executive Member, Community Association, Surveyor?
Richard Horniman – Head of Regeneration Charlotte Nicol – Head of Culture Sam Gilmore – Head of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Paul Shout – Finance Business Partner
<b>Date of decision</b>
January 2022 – funding is required to be awarded by end January 2022, to meet match funding obligations.
<b>Service area</b>
Regeneration and Culture
<b>Name of Delegated Officer making decision - i.e. Officer who is designated the power in the Constitution</b>
Director of Regeneration and Culture – Richard Horniman Director of Finance – Ian Wright
<b>Name of the Officer making the decision – if power has been sub-delegated to another Officer.</b>
N/A
<b>List of background papers (do not list if contain exempt/confidential information)</b>
<b><i>Towns Fund and Future High Streets Fund</i></b> Executive report of 27 May 2021
Signed:  
<b>Dated: 18.01.2022</b>