

## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	TOURISM AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	6 JANUARY 2022	6
<b>GREEN LOOP PROJECT FUNDING</b>			

### PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of funding awarded from Arts Council England to provide support to a series of arts & environment initiatives, within a project entitled 'Green Loop'. The project will be coordinated by the Fylde Council Arts Development Officer who will commission & oversee the work of a creative team and local community & environmental organisations. The project will consist of three main tranches:

1. Engage two artists to work alongside a professional environmental artist and participants in a workshop programme to research, design, create, promote, and retail a limited-edition, sustainable & ethically produced range of wearable or home accessories made from recycled plastic and waste found in the Ribble Estuary.
2. An artist commission which will explore the environmental impacts of plastic waste through a series of artworks created both using and inspired by litter found in the River Ribble.
3. A Sustainable Makers Market will be co-produced by Fylde residents in collaboration with Hopeful & Glorious (a Lancashire based arts organisation who specialise in delivering events for artists, makers, and designers to exhibit and sell art).

This project was formerly an aspect of the proposed wider 'Coastal Explorers' / Sightlines & Shorelines project. This 'Coastal Explorers' / Sightlines & Shorelines proposed project resulted in an unsuccessful funding bid to the Big Lottery Fund, so it was agreed by the 'Coastal Explorers' Member Working Group to develop and progress the 'Green Loop' strand of the formerly proposed project and to apply to Arts Council England for funding.

The Arts Council funding application was successful, and the project delivery programme will run from February 2022 to October 2022. The grant allocated to Fylde Council by Arts Council England to deliver this initiative is £26,200. Other funding is provided either as match or in-kind support.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee is requested to consider and:

To recommend to the Finance & Democracy Committee approval of a fully funded revenue budget increase in the sum of £26,200 for the year 2022 / 23 to be met in full, from a grant from the Arts Council England relating to this project.

### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

None.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	√
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	√
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	√
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	√

## REPORT

1. Fylde Council had previously approved a capital request for £20,000 for an arts project entitled 'Coastal Explorers' / Sightlines & Shorelines subject to the securing of external funding from the Big Lottery Fund and Arts Council England. Due to funding grants from the Big Lottery Fund being primarily diverted to Covid 19 recovery related projects, the bid for 'Coastal Explorers' / Sightlines & Shorelines was unsuccessful and the £20,000 was removed from the capital programme.
2. One element of the formerly proposed 'Coastal Explorers' project was a series of arts & environment initiatives and following discussions with the Member working group, it was decided to develop & progress this element of the project and make an application to Arts Council England for funding. This funding bid was successful and communicated to Fylde Council in November 2021. This project is entitled Green Loop.
3. Green Loop is an art and environment project motivated by the desire to connect Fylde's communities with the coastline. The project will provide meaningful volunteer opportunities, develop skills, provide engagement opportunities for local people, particularly socially isolated young people (NEET), whose lives and opportunities have been particularly impacted by COVID-19. In doing so, it will offer local people opportunities to create deeper connections to the coastline so that it becomes more accessible to all, better appreciated, and better understood. We have strengthened relationships and ideas through partnership working with community and voluntary organisations, artists, and environmentalists. The pandemic has forced many to be more creative, and to appreciate the natural environment. It is this acknowledgment across society that we wish to capture. GL will bring together some of our most isolated residents through this shared purpose.

The Green Loop project is comprised of three thematically linked strands, delivered by the community in collaboration with professional artists and environmentalists: -

- Using the local coastline as the stimulus, we will engage two emerging artists to work alongside a professional environmental artist and participants in a workshop programme to research, design, create, promote, and retail a limited-edition, sustainable & ethically produced range of wearable or home accessories made from recycled plastic and waste found in the Ribble Estuary. Participants will retail their outputs online and at local craft markets, showing how beautiful items can be made from recycled materials. Working with partner organisations Ribble Rivers Trust, Love My Beach & Friends of the Estuary invaluable support will be provided through the provision of ecology sessions and waste material sourcing activities.
- An artist commission created by Nerissa Cargill Thompson will explore the environmental impacts of plastic waste through a series of artworks created both using and inspired by litter found in the River Ribble. Nerissa will collaborate with the local business sector to develop an exhibition trail to be hosted by the participating businesses, along Fylde's high streets, bringing greater awareness of the human impact on the local environment looking at the legacy of such waste and alternative choices.
- A Sustainable Makers Market will be co-produced by Fylde residents in collaboration with Hopeful & Glorious ( [://hopefulandglorious.co.uk/](https://hopefulandglorious.co.uk/) \t "\_blank" <https://hopefulandglorious.co.uk/>) providing a platform for the launch of the communities limited edition product range. Developed with an environmental ethos, the makers market brand will be produced in line with a set of green principles which will shape the design of the marketing strategy, artisans selected and transport/travel requirements. The market will be hosted at Fairhaven Lake and within the newly restored Isaac Dixon boathouse.

4. Fylde Council shall provide match funding of £10,000 against total project costs of £44,523. This is from existing revenues and has been used to lever in the external funding from Arts Council England. There is some additional 'in kind' match funding provided, as well as some funding expected from hosting a Sustainable Makers Market at Fairhaven Lake – these are detailed as below:

Arts Council Grant to Fylde	£26,200
Match funding from Fylde Council	£10,000 (from existing revenue budgets)
In kind support	£ 7,373
Income from Market	£ 950
<b>Total Project costs</b>	<b>£44,523</b>

5. This project will be delivered by the existing Arts Development Officer at Fylde Council who will liaise with relevant organisations, artists and teams within Fylde Council

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The report recommends that Finance and Democracy Committee approve a fully-funded revenue budget increase in the sum of £26,200 in 2022/23 to support this project.
Legal	None arising directly from this report
Community Safety	None arising directly from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising directly from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	Improvement in environmental awareness and engagement
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising directly from this report

CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Tim Dixon	mailto:tim.dixon@fylde.gov.uk <a href="mailto:tim.dixon@fylde.gov.uk">tim.dixon@fylde.gov.uk</a> & Tel 01253 658436
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
None		