

**CABINET**

**Storey G2 Arts Proposal  
Update  
11 February 2014**

**Report of Chief Officer (Regeneration and Planning)**

PURPOSE OF REPORT				
To seek members views on providing funding to Storey Gallery arts organisation, now named Storey G2				
<b>Key Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Non-Key Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Referral from Cabinet</b>
				<b>X</b>
<b>Date of notice of forthcoming key decision</b>			n/a	
<b>This report is public.</b>				

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNCILLORS JANICE HANSON & RON SANDS:**

- (1) That Cabinet considers funding for an arts project based in Freeman's Wood in the Castle ward of Lancaster, to be delivered by Storey G2 arts organisation, should its Arts Council funding bid be successful.

**1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Lancaster City Council historically entered into an annual Service Level Agreement with the Storey Gallery which also leased the gallery at the Storey and used the Council's funding to draw down match funding to commission art exhibitions. More recently the Storey Gallery organisation has moved out of the Storey and is focusing on commissioning arts projects in the public realm. They have also changed the name of the company to Storey G2.
- 1.2 At a meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2012, Cabinet agreed that the £10,800 grant to the Storey Gallery (renamed Storey G2) be held back until detailed proposals regarding any specific project are brought forward by the company for consideration by Cabinet and that any proposals should indicate the likely financial support of the Arts Council, Lancashire County Council and/or other funding bodies.
- 1.3 Officers are aware that the Storey G2 submitted a funding application to the Arts Council's 'Grant for the Arts' funding and that that funding application was unsuccessful. However, this application for £42,750 was re-submitted and the Arts Council decision is expected during February. In addition, £5,000 match funding from Lancashire County Council has been provisionally secured. Both Arts Council and County Council funds are conditional on other funds, including a Lancaster City Council contribution, being approved.

## 2 Storey Project Proposal

- 2.1 The project is described by the Storey G2 as “about land ownership, and its effects on places and on people’s lives. It is based in Castle Ward, Lancaster, the electoral area in which Storey Gallery has had its home for 22 years. It is focused on a plot of land known as Freeman’s Wood on the edge of Lancaster, which has recently become a site of collision between interests of a local community and those of global capital”.

The project aims to:

- explore the global issue of land-ownership and place-making through a focus on a particular site in Lancaster
- raise awareness and discussion of land-ownership and its social effects, locally, nationally, and internationally
- commission world-class artists
- engage the participation of, and work with, local people in a shared creative process
- engage people who would not normally experience contemporary art
- inspire people
- stimulate critical thought and reflection
- produce new artworks
- disseminate these art works widely
- promote and develop art which is socially engaged, critical, and useful
- imagine alternatives
- create a platform for ideas
- use the internet as a distribution vector
- produce a field of connection and activism

- 2.2 Storey G2 continued to say “Storey G2 aims to commission world-class artists to work with local people to explore unique features of the Lancaster area in order to illuminate global social issues, and use art’s potential to stimulate thought, and imagine the world differently. The resulting artworks will be disseminated widely, primarily via the internet”.

- 2.3 Officers have reviewed the arts project that Storey G2 is proposing and on the basis of the information provided, have noted the following;
- It is unclear how the project will support the Council’s current Corporate Priorities but links partially to the 20/20 Arts Strategy Framework
  - The economic impact that the Council expects as an outcome of its investment in the arts is unclear
  - the project appears to be deliverable. However, it is not clear if there is any potential risk relating to the land on which the project will take place as this is not owned by Storey G2
  - Value for money, in respect of ratio of match funding is good, assuming all match funding is achieved. However, value for money in terms of the deliverables for the project is less clear
  - There are planning issues which relate to this land as part of the forthcoming local plan process and the payment of grant to this project has the potential to be viewed as a conflict of interest on the council’s part.

## 3 Details of Consultation

- 3.1 Officers have briefly discussed this project with Storey G2 and have sought the views of Lancashire County Council's Arts Team as the County Council is one of the funders highlighted in the funding application. The County Council are keen to support Storey G2 now that they have moved away from running a gallery and are focussing on commissioning art projects in the public realm that potentially widening access. However, this funding is subject to Storey G2 securing match funding and will not remain available if the funding application to the Arts Council is unsuccessful for a second time.

#### 4 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

This report seeks Cabinet approval to provide £8,000 of funding to support the project outlined by Storey G2.

	<b>Option 1:</b> The Council provides match funding to Storey G2 so that they can deliver this project	<b>Option 2:</b> The Council does not provide match funding to Storey G2.
Advantages	<p>The project will engage with the local community from the Castle ward area</p> <p>Attract £47,750 of external investment into the arts</p> <p>It would allow Storey G2 to continue to operate at least for a further year</p>	<p>Provides the opportunity to use the Council's funding for something else that supports Corporate Priorities or to be taken as a saving.</p>
Disadvantages	<p>Unclear how this project will support the Council's current Corporate Priorities</p> <p>Economic impact is unclear</p> <p>Does not sustain Storey G2 in the long term as this is project funded for 1 year only</p> <p>Need for this project has not been established</p>	<p>It is unlikely that Arts Council and County Council funding will be agreed without City Council funding being in place</p> <p>Possible local community benefits may be lost</p>
Risks	<p>Any risk associated with the use of the land, which is separately owned, are not clear.</p> <p>Supporting a project that does not clearly link to the Council's Corporate Priorities could be confusing and make</p>	<p>Without City Council support the project is unlikely to proceed and the future of Storey G2 would be unclear</p> <p>Communications are required with the other Arts funders to ensure their investment in Arts in the district is maintained and the</p>

	thing less clear in the future in terms of determining what the Council supports and doesn't and why.	Council's overall contribution and objectives are clear.
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## 5 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

5.1 Option 2 is the officer preferred option. Monies provided to support the arts need to demonstrate that they make a positive impact to the local economy. The evidence supporting this project does not point to any demonstrable benefits to the local economy which would arise from the local taxpayers contributions.

## 6 Conclusion

6.1 This report provides Cabinet with the opportunity to decide if the Council wishes to provide funding to Storey G2.

### **RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK**

Unclear how this project will support the Council's current Corporate Priorities

### **CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, HR, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)**

No impact on the above

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

No direct legal implications for the council as this is an external project however Storey G2 would need to ascertain use of the land at Freeman's wood which is separately owned

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

£10,800 is currently included in the Council's Revenue Budget for 2013/14. Against this, the Storey G2 organisation has requested a grant of £8,000 and should Cabinet support this request and Storey G2's Arts Council bid be successful, arrangements would need be put in place to ensure the grant can be accounted for in the current financial year.

Alternatively, If Cabinet decide not to support the proposal at this time (in line with the Officer preferred option), then unless Cabinet indicates otherwise the whole £10,800 budget would remain unspent, falling into balances at year end (assuming no overspending arises corporately). Any such additional balances could then be used to help future years' budgets.

### **OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

**Human Resources / Information Services / Property / Open Spaces:  
Regeneration & Planning**

The agreement would require monitoring throughout the year

**Resources**

Input would be required in terms of dealing with financial accounting

**SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The s151 Officer has been consulted and advises Cabinet to consider the value for money implications very carefully.

**MONITORING OFFICER COMMENTS**

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and her comments incorporated in the report.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

none

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