

## OFFICER DECISION

**Decision: To allocate up to £38,000 UKSPF funding to Art of Protest to work with the local community to design and deliver a mural and transform 8 wooden benches at Acomb Front Street**

**Decision Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024

|                                   |     |  |         |   |
|-----------------------------------|-----|--|---------|---|
| <b>Type of Decision:</b> Director | Key |  | Non-Key | X |
|-----------------------------------|-----|--|---------|---|

**Portfolio Area that decision relates to:**

|  |          |  |          |
|--|----------|--|----------|
| Leader (inc Corporate Services, Policy, Strategy & Partnerships) |          | Environment and Climate<br>Emergency                 |          |
| Economy & Culture  | <b>X</b> | Finance, Performance, Major<br>Projects & Equalities | <b>X</b> |
| Children, Young People and<br>Education                          | <b>X</b> | Transport  |          |
| Health, Wellbeing and Adults<br>Social Care                      |          | Housing, Planning & Safer<br>Communities             |          |

**Background/ Decision Summary**

York has been allocated £5.1m from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to implement the investment plan that was agreed by DLUHC in January 2023. In October 2022, CYC Executive gave delegated authority to the Corporate Director of Place to implement this Investment Plan, in consultation with the relevant Executive Members and the York UKSPF Partnership Board. This delegation was reconfirmed in October 2023. Due to the senior management restructure, the decision has been made by the Interim Director of City Development who now has responsibility for UKSPF.

Details for Acomb Front Street Phase 2 were approved by the Executive Member for Economy and Culture at his decision session on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024. These included a provision for public artwork as part of the scheme, with the agreement of the detailed design and implementation delegated to the Interim Director of City Development. The artwork has been further defined as a mural to mark the new gateway to Acomb Front Street and the refurbishment of 8 benches along the street, with a funding competition launched in November 2024 to find an artist to work with the local community and develop suitable designs which would reflect the local neighbourhood and respond to the views of the local community as revealed in consultation.

The funding competition attracted interest from across the world and has now completed. Eighteen requests were made for the application pack, leading to eleven proposals being received for the development of the mural, and five proposals for the benches. Following appraisal of those proposals, the highest scoring applications for both projects were submitted by Art of Protest, who scored 84/100 for the mural and 78/100 for the benches. Their proposal involves working with The Place at Sanderson House and includes further public consultation on the detailed designs. The proposed cost for both projects is £34,770 plus an allowance for contingencies, and the total costs will be no more than £38,000.

UKSPF funding must all be spent by the end of the current financial year, when the current programme finishes and any unspent funds must be returned to Government.

**Options Considered:**

Option 1: Award funding to Art of Protest for both projects

Option 2: Do not award funds

**Options Rejected:**

Option 2: The Executive Member, Executive and the Partnership have supported the Acomb Front Street project, and the public consultation highlighted local demands for public art work. We have compliant bids at the standard required to award funding, so there is no reason not to award.

**Consultation Process:**

The proposals for artwork have emerged from public consultation on Acomb Front Street, as detailed in the report to the Executive Member in September 2024 and Executive in July 2024. The Executive Member further supported the Phase 2 Delivery Plan in September 2024, and the York UKSPF Partnership Board confirmed support for the principle of public art at their November 2024 meeting.

**Implications**

|                  |  |               |   |          |   |
|------------------|--|---------------|---|----------|---|
| Crime & Disorder |  | Equalities    |   | Highways | X |
| Human Resources  |  | Legal         | X | ICT      |   |
| Financial        |  | Affordability |   | Property |   |
| Climate Change   |  | Health        |   | Other    |   |
| Environment      |  | Human Rights  |   |          |   |

**Implications Contact:** Simon Brereton

|                           |   |                      |  |                           |  |                 |   |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------|--|---------------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| <b>Level of Risk:</b> Low |   |                      |  |                           |  |                 |   |
| <b>Wards Affected:</b>    |   |                      |  |                           |  |                 |   |
| All Wards                 |   | Fishergate           |  | Holgate                   |  | Rural West York |   |
| Acomb                     | X | Fulford & Heslington |  | Hull Road                 |  | Strensall       |   |
| Bishopthorpe              |   | Guildhall            |  | Huntington & New Earswick |  | Westfield       | X |
| Clifton                   |   | Haxby & Wigginton    |  | Micklegate                |  | Wheldrake       |   |
| Copmanthorpe              |   | Heworth              |  | Osballdwick & Derwent     |  |                 |   |
| Dringhouses & Woodthorpe  |   | Heworth Without      |  | Rawcliffe & Clifton       |  |                 |   |

**Comments/Observations:**

UKSPF funding is available through the E1 intervention, with decisions on implementation delegated to the Director in consultation with the Executive Member. For Acomb Front Street, decisions on implementation of Phase 2 have been further delegated to the Director of City Development. The public art project clearly aligns with the AFS Delivery Plan, and the funding competition has been run in accordance with the York UKSPF Assurance Framework.

**Decision:**

To award up to £38,000 from UKSPF to Art of Protest to work with the local community to design and deliver a mural and transform 8 wooden benches at Acomb Front Street.

**Decision Made by:** Claire Foale, Interim Director of City Development

**Contact Details:** [claire.foale@york.gov.uk](mailto:claire.foale@york.gov.uk)

**On behalf of:** Chief Operating Officer

**To be implemented by:** Simon Brereton Head of Economy

**On Completion – Signed off by:**

**Date: 17.12.24**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Hale'.

**Interim Director of City Development**