

Mayoral Combined Authority Board

12 March 2024



Culture, Creative and Heritage Investment Update

Is the paper exempt from the press and public?	No
Reason why exempt:	Not applicable
Purpose of this report:	Discussion
Is this a Key Decision?	No
Has it been included on the Forward Plan?	Not a Key Decision

Director Approving Submission of the Report:

Clare Monaghan, Executive Director – Policy and Strategic Development

Report Author(s):

Andrew Gates – Assistant Director External Affairs
Andrew.Gates@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk

Molly Axelby – Corporate Policy & Strategy Officer
Molly.axelby@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk

Executive Summary

This report presents to Board a summary of the significant programme of investment the MCA is making to support cultural, creative and heritage investment schemes across South Yorkshire.

What does this mean for businesses, people and places in South Yorkshire?

Our cultural, creative and heritage assets are among the most valuable we have as a region; through MCA investment we are supporting our communities to be happier, healthier, have greater pride in place and to be more cohesive. These things are central to creating a more vibrant, dynamic economy in South Yorkshire.

Recommendations

The MCA Board are asked to note the investments being made in cultural, creative and heritage schemes across South Yorkshire.

- a. Childrens Capital of Culture £0.96m grant
- b. Harmony Works scheme up-to £2m grant
- c. The Castle Project scheme up-to £5m grant

Consideration by any other Board, Committee, Assurance or Advisory Panel

Programme Board	18 January 2024
Programme Board	01 February 2024
Programme Board	15 February 2024
Programme Board	29 February 2024

1. Background

1.1 This report highlights three cultural, creative and heritage investment schemes that are being brought forward for consideration at this MCA Board meeting. These schemes sit as part of a wider programme of cultural, creative and heritage investments being made right across the region by local, regional and national partners.

1.2 The MCA recognises the importance of cultural, creative and heritage assets and programmes in their contribution to GVA, community wellbeing, education and skills, reputation and placemaking. Building the capacity of this sector is an area of priority to promote, advocate, convene, maximise and where appropriate, fund programmes to build long term resilience and impact for the region.

Ensuring that our cultural sector is able to maximise its investment and impact potential is a key area of opportunity for the MCA, alongside regional and national partners.

These investments are notable in demonstrating the MCAs commitment to the sector and its ambition in this space.

1.3 These programmes demonstrate the ability of cultural interventions to ‘join up’ infrastructure, capital assets, people and programmes and produce co-benefits across South Yorkshire.

They also showcase how cross-cutting ‘value added’ can be delivered through cultural interventions, with a broad range of social and economic impacts produced.

Between them, these programmes positively impact on wider strategic priorities such as improving young people skills, targeting health inequalities, improving our visitor economy offer, revitalising high streets and boosting pride in place.

1.4 **Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council**
Rotherham Children’s Capital of Culture

The project will build upon the programme which was launched in 2022. The initiative will result in the creation of employment and training opportunities in the

cultural and creative industries, and health and wellbeing programmes that support young people between now and 2025, before culminating in a year-long festival that will celebrate the talent and creativity of young people in Rotherham.

This investment will demonstrate to funders the commitment to the programme locally and will be used overall to unlock match funding from a range of sources.

Children's Capital of Culture will:

- Invest in new skills and talent development pathways for the creative and cultural sector;
- Grow the economic benefits of cultural and creative industries through the creation of new and imaginative events and experiences that provide a distinctive offer for children and young people across the borough and wider region;
- Improve the individual life chances of children and young people, changing perceptions about where they live, raising aspirations and building stronger communities;
- Create a national blueprint for high quality engagement and co-production with children and young people.

1.5

Sheffield City Council

Harmony Works

Harmony Works (HW) will transform the Grade II* listed Canada House (CH) in Castlegate in the heart of Sheffield into a home for inspirational music education and opportunity for young people across South Yorkshire. It will provide a much-needed, inclusive and accessible hub for music education that celebrates excellence and invites all young people to explore their musical potential. In doing so, it brings an outstanding Victorian heritage building back into public use for the first time in many years. The project will conserve and protect the outstanding features of CH, whilst creating three new contrasting performance spaces, bringing much needed additional capacity to South Yorkshire, and helping to attract world class musicians.

1.6

Sheffield City Council

The Castle Project

Castlegate is the birthplace of Sheffield. At the confluence of the River Sheaf and the River Don, this was once the heart of the city, and the site of the castle demolished in 1648. Once a thriving commercial area, it has since lost its identity and purpose.

This project shall provide essential infrastructure and enabling work to unlock the regeneration of a large brownfield site and the economic regeneration of Castlegate quarter, while preserving and interpreting archaeology that is vital to a full understanding of Sheffield's history.

The Castle project will re-establish Castlegate as a thriving part of the city centre, seeking to address long-term decline and underinvestment in a prominent historic

area in the heart of Sheffield and transform the derelict space into a 'must go' destination in what will become one of Sheffield's most exciting neighbourhoods.

In order to realise the long-term ambition of regeneration of the Castle Site, the following interventions are programmed to be completed as part of the enabling works and subsequent development:

- The de-culverting and re-naturalisation of the River Sheaf: Planned removal of existing concrete culvert structure will alleviate flood risks and avoid potential collapse due to the culvert falling into disrepair. This allows for the daylighting of the river and further naturalisation works to be completed to improve and encourage greater biodiversity in this part of the Sheaf. Enabling works to this end will also be complemented by accessible urban green space and public realm developments aiming to increase leisure footfall and dwell time in the Castlegate Quarter.
- Creation of several development-ready land plots: As part of the work to be undertaken with the assistance of SYMCA funding, pre-determined sections of the existing fallow land within the Castle Site are to be developed into six shovel-ready development plots in order to attract private investment.
- The activation of other plots by 'meanwhile uses' that encourage healthy lifestyles: Surplus land will be opened and activated by meanwhile uses, offering a central location in which residents can focus on outdoor sport, physical activity and building healthy lifestyles.
- Revealing key areas of Castle ruins and putting these on public display through carefully designed public realm: SYMCA funding will help support the work required to reveal the ruins of Sheffield Castle through the creation of high-quality public realm comprising of new accessible walking routes, hard and soft landscaping, events spaces, planting of trees and shrubs, sustainable urban drainage features and several development plots in a new landmark open space in the city centre. Priority will be given to the protection and usage of the site in a manner that preserves and appropriately interprets the archaeological remains of the castle.



2. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

2.1 **Option 1**

Note these schemes.

2.2 **Option 1 Risks and Mitigations**

N/A

2.5 **Recommended Option**

Option 1

3. **Consultation on Proposal**

3.1 Discussions for these proposals have taken place with our Local Authorities, sector representatives and with the Portfolio Leads and SYMCA business partners.

4. **Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

4.1 Subject to the agreement through Programme Approvals, the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Section 73 Officer and Monitoring Officer will progress to enter into legal agreements for the schemes.

5. **Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice**

5.1 Schemes highlighted in this report can be fully funded from available resource.

6. **Legal Implications and Advice**

6.1 The legal implications of these schemes have been fully considered by a representative of the Monitoring Officer.

7. **Human Resources Implications and Advice**

7.1 None.

8. **Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice**

8.1 Equality and diversity implications are taken into account as part of the proposal considerations.

9. **Climate Change Implications and Advice**

9.1 Climate change implications are considered as part of the proposal considerations.

10. **Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice**

10.1 None

11. **Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice**

11.1 This paper highlights how investments made by the MCA will make positive impacts on people and places across South Yorkshire through supporting the region's cultural, creative and heritage assets.

List of Appendices Included

None.

Background Papers

None.