

North East Derbyshire

Clay Cross Town Deal Board (CCTDB)

5 November 2021

Creative Hub Project Update

Report of the Assistant Director Economic Development, Regeneration and Housing Growth

Classification: This report is public

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PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To provide an update on the Creative Hub project that forms part of the Clay Cross Town Deal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Board note the progress to date.

REPORT DETAILS

1 Background (reasons for bringing the report)

- 1.1 The Clay Cross Town Investment Plan states that the Clay Cross Creative project will act as a focal point to the delivery of creative enterprise, arts and social programmes with a focus on engaging the community, including young people, around creative, artisan and social enterprise. The development of the concept is ongoing.
- 1.2 The Investment Plan proposed that the project would deliver:
 - The refurbishment of three local heritage assets in the heart of the town centre;
 - Offices and workspace for First Art or similar;
 - Workshop and touchdown space for makers, artists and other small businesses
 - A 'pop up' retail environment for local makers
 - A gallery space and garden space
 - Artisan work shed for creative makers
 - Access to creative and making equipment including screen printing, desk-top publishing and printing and a digital printer

- A base for an events programme including training, business coaching, social and networking events
- 1.3 The buildings under consideration for the Creative Hub are owned by either Derbyshire County Council (Constabulary Building, DACES building) or in private ownership (former Methodist Church).
 - 1.4 The Investment Plan also states that First Art will manage the building(s), which will be asset transferred from Derbyshire County Council. However, initial discussions with First Art determined that this was never agreed by them, and that their status as a relatively new organisation, meant that this was unlikely to be the case, and that whilst they were interested in taking part in the project, they could not commit at this stage to be the owner/operator of the Hub.
 - 1.5 Dialogue is ongoing with stakeholders involved in the project, including Derbyshire County Council, First Arts and others, to help shape the project and its future use and management. First Art have expressed a commitment to examining the possibility of becoming an anchor tenant for the Hub. However, an owner/landlord for the Hub needs to be determined.
 - 1.6 As the project involves the delivery of community based activities, and potentially the provision of workspace for artists, consultation is key in this project's development, to determine the need for a Hub and the type of activities it will deliver. To this end, an online survey aimed at creative businesses, organisations and artists has been developed and will be issued shortly.
 - 1.7 Also, a short consultation exercise was undertaken at the recent community arts event held in the town centre by Junction Arts from 23rd to 25th September 2021. Appendix 1 provides a summary of the feedback and the impact on footfall levels in the town centre.
 - 1.8 A site visit for the Working Group is currently being organised, to enable a serious discussion about the potential future uses and layout of the buildings to begin. It is hoped that this will take place in early November 2021.
 - 1.9 The project has been determined as priority 3 for early release funding, with the following elements being considered: operational business plan support, land purchase, design work, events strategy.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 As outlined in 1.1 – 1.9

3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 To keep the Clay Cross Town Deal Board updated on progress to date.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 There are no alternative options at this stage.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Consultation Findings
Background	