

## **CABINET MEMBER DECISION**

### **Decision:**

Members' Questions

#### **(i) Details of decision**

A question was submitted by Mr Eber Kington, County Councillor for Ewell Court, Auriol & Cuddington. The question and response are attached as Appendix 1.

#### **(ii) Reasons for decision**

To respond to the question

#### **(iii) Details of any alternative options considered and rejected**

None

#### **(iv) Details of any consultation and representations received not included in the published report**

None

### **Conflicts of Interest and any Dispensations Granted**

**(Any conflict of interest declared by any other Cabinet Member consulted in relation to the decision to be recorded and any dispensations granted by the Audit and Governance Committee)**

None

### **Decision taken by:**

**(i) Name:** David Hodge

**(ii) Portfolio:** Leader of the Council

**Date of Decision:** 12 September 2017

**Date of Publication of Record of Decision:** 12 September 2017

**Date decision effective (This decision cannot be called in):** 12 September 2017

## **CABINET MEMBER DECISION**

### **Decision:**

WATTS GALLERY TRUST AND 4 YEAR REVENUE FUNDING AGREEMENT 2018/19 TO 2021/22

#### **(i) Details of decision**

The Leader of the Council agreed that:

- i. Surrey County Council will provide support of up to £400,000 – paid at a max of up to £100,000 per annum (pa) for each of four years - commencing April 2018, to the Watts Gallery Trust to enable the Trust to continue and further develop its work with schools and community, its learning programmes, and its programmes of work targeted to health and wellbeing outcomes ... where these are to the benefit of Surrey residents; and
- ii. the Director of Legal, Democratic and Cultural Services will finalise the terms of an agreement with the Watts Gallery Trust to enable the provision of the funding.

#### **(ii) Reasons for decision**

The Leader and Chief Executive have previously discussed with Watts Gallery Trust various strands of support to assist the development of the gallery as an increasingly high profile and nationally important gallery and heritage attraction within the county. This request is for time-limited revenue funding.

The contribution of the Artists' Village to artistic excellence, lifelong learning and public health and well-being, has led to its national recognition by the Arts Council as a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) (£100,000 per annum, from April 2018-2022). NPO funding will provide opportunities for the Artists' Village to develop predominantly new activities. However, at the same time, the Artists Village's funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) ends in March 2018. The HLF funding helped grow the Art for All learning programme from 2,000 to a predicted 20,000 learners in 2017/8. Without additional investment into its infrastructure the Trust will not be able to sustain its core activities and their benefit to local residents.

At this critical moment, there is an opportunity for further investment from the County Council through match funding of the NPO grant. This four year investment would enable Watts Gallery Trust to champion its Art for All programme; to grow the annual numbers of residents benefiting from learning, days out, open days, community events and job opportunities; and to further deliver the County Council's strategic goals.

Surrey County Council's investment in the Watts Gallery – Artists' Village has helped deliver considerable social and economic benefits for Surrey and Surrey residents, with a predicted 20,000 local learners in 2017/18 including in-depth learning programme with marginalised people such as NEETS, offenders and those with poor mental health.

Investment would also enable the Artists' Village to support place-making via its 65,000 annual visitors and to strengthen its leadership of the Arts and Crafts Consortium and its contribution to Surrey's cultural strategy to boost economic prosperity.

The benefits for Surrey residents will include increased learning opportunities and enhanced wellbeing including for vulnerable young people and other marginalised groups, increased employment and business opportunities, strengthened cultural experience for the public, including local people who might never have visited museums, and a boost to place-making and local tourism.

The Watts Gallery - Artists' Village will be Surrey's fourth NPO.

**(iii) Details of any alternative options considered and rejected**

None

**(iv) Details of any consultation and representations received not included in the published report**

It was agreed that acknowledgement and recognition of SCC funding of various programmes to be agreed as part of finalisation of terms and conditions of the funding agreement.

**Conflicts of Interest and any Dispensations Granted**

**(Any conflict of interest declared by any other Cabinet Member consulted in relation to the decision to be recorded and any dispensations granted by the Audit and Governance Committee)**

None

**Decision taken by:**

**(i) Name:** David Hodge

**(ii) Portfolio:** Leader of the Council

**Date of Decision:** 12 September 2017

**Date of Publication of Record of Decision:**

**Date decision effective (i.e. 5 working days after date of publication of record of decision unless subject to call-in by the Council Overview Board):** 19 September 2017

## LEADER DECISIONS – 12 SEPTEMBER 2017

### PROCEDURAL MATTERS

#### Members Questions

<b>Question (1) Eber Kington (Ewell Court, Auriol &amp; Cuddington):</b>
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Whilst supporting the arts may well be a worthy project, SCC is currently facing severe funding pressures which are resulting in cuts to services across the council. For example streetlights have been switched off from midnight, local highway budgets have been severely cut, there are proposals for the withdrawal of Housing Support and potential cuts to services dealing with sexual health and HIV.

Given that the Watts Gallery Trust has total funds of £38.3m, receives support from a number of patrons and benefactors, generated income of £3.4m in the year ending 31st March 2016, and it has already received a £1million grant from SCC, does David Hodge agree with me that now is not the time to provide £400k of council taxpayers money to that organisation.

In the light of SCC's continuing budget deficit in this current financial year will David Hodge reject the Recommendation that Surrey County Council provides support of up to £400,000 to the Watts Gallery Trust, as both financially unaffordable and morally unacceptable at this time.

#### **Reply:**

Surrey County Council's investment in the Watts Gallery – Artists' Village has already helped deliver considerable social and economic benefits for Surrey and Surrey residents. The proposed funding for its learning and public programme will enable Watts to sustain and continue to develop Art for All. This outreach work with schools and in the community has a programmes of work targeted to health and wellbeing outcomes, including mental health. I suggest Mr Kington looks at the list of activities this funding will support – helpfully set out in paragraph 18 of the report. I certainly don't accept supporting programmes for disadvantaged and socially excluded members of our society is morally unacceptable and I am surprised and disappointed that he does.

**Mr David Hodge CBE  
Leader of the Council  
12 September 2017**