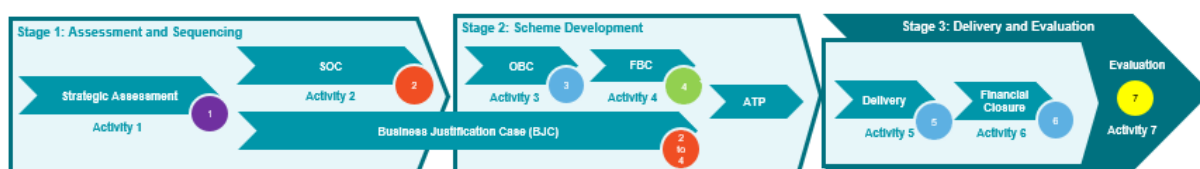


Report to:	Combined Authority
Date:	7 December 2023
Subject:	LEEDS 2023 Year of Culture Project Approvals - Investment Priority 6 – Creative Industries, Culture, Heritage and Sport
Director:	Felix Kumi-Ampofo, Director Inclusive Economy, Skills & Culture
Author:	Craig Taylor, Head of Strategic Portfolio Office

1 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 To report on proposals for the progression of, and funding for projects under Investment Priority 6 – Creative Industries, Culture, Heritage and Sport, within the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy (WYIS), that have been considered at stages 1, 2 and 3 of the Combined Authority’s assurance process.



- 1.2 The recommendations can be found in Section 12 of this report.

2 Report

- 2.1 This report presents proposals for the progression of schemes through the Combined Authority’s assurance process in line with the Combined Authority’s Assurance Framework. Further details on the schemes summarised below can be found as part of this report.

3 Investment Priority 6 (IP6) –Creative Industries, Culture, Heritage and Sport

- 3.1 The West Yorkshire Investment Strategy (WYIS) sets out the Investment Priorities for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2024 across six areas. In each, a number of priority project / programme areas have been identified that are the focus for intervention.

- 3.2 Investment Priority 6 will deliver a range of programmes and schemes which focus on:

- Embedding culture within all place-based work and place planning
- Culture being recognised and developed for its role in supporting the visitor economy.
- Cultural and creative businesses and their supply chains are developed and supported to maximise their potential.

- More people being actively engaged in cultural activity.
- Increase in employment in culture, sport and arts roles
- Developing and promoting cultural activity that promotes clean growth and sustainability.

3.3 The Culture, Heritage and Sport Framework will deliver Investment Priority 6 through:

Theme 1 People

- Culture, heritage and sport is threaded through the lives of people in West Yorkshire so that it is relevant, enjoyable and supports our sense of well-being. It is shaped, produced and participated in by all parts of our population.

Theme 2 Place

- We will invest in culture, heritage and sport activity and assets that tell the story of who we are.
- We will collaborate with anchor institutions, including universities and libraries, to increase cultural participation in our communities.

Theme 3 Skills

- We will invest in organisations and activities that offer training opportunities for staff, volunteers and participants.
- We will work with schools to promote possibilities and pathways for careers in the creative industries, heritage and sport sectors, and to recognise the value of transferable creative skills in the wider business sector.

Theme 4 Business

- Each major Year of Culture and/or City of Culture initiative grows audiences, creates jobs, and develops skills across the region, creating a sustainable cultural ecosystem.

Evaluation

3.4 Both schemes, seeking approval via this report, have an Evaluation Plan in place, which has been devised in consultation with the Combined Authority's Culture, Heritage and Sport evaluation lead, and both schemes have been issued with evaluation data requirements. The evaluation data requirements for these schemes are governed by the Combined Authority's Culture, Heritage and Sport Evaluation Framework and aligned to the Combined Authority's Evaluation Strategy, which in turn is based on the Magenta Book – which sets out central government's approach to evaluation. The Evaluation Strategy is a component of the Combined Authority's Assurance Framework, which has recently been updated.

Publicity and Acknowledgement

- 3.5 The West Yorkshire Combined Authority logo, and the Tracy Brabin Mayor of West Yorkshire logo, will be used to acknowledge the support of the Combined Authority in all activities it funds or part-funds.
- 3.6 It is also a standard term of the Combined Authority grant contract that the recipient agrees to participate in and co-operate with reasonable promotional activities relating to the project, and each party shall comply with all reasonable requests from the other party to facilitate visits, provide reports, statistics, photographs and case studies that will assist the other party in its promotional and fundraising activities relating to the project.

British Library North

- 3.7 At the Combined Authority meeting on 29 July 2021, approval was granted for the Strategic Outline Case (SOC) for the British Library North project, including an indicative approval of £25 million (to be funded through the Combined Authority's devolution deal) and approval of £5.350 million development costs to progress the scheme to decision point 3 (outline business case).
- 3.8 The project is extremely complex and since SOC approval, partners - including the British Library, Leeds City Council, the Combined Authority, and CEG (as owner of Temple Works, the indicative location for the project) – have been working hard to determine the best route to safely access the building to undertake the necessary feasibility work and surveys.
- 3.9 As a result, the project milestones are currently beyond the time tolerances approved in July 2021. A detailed update will be provided at a future meeting of the Culture, Heritage and Sport Committee, including a Change Request to update the time tolerances, and potentially a request to update the criteria for the previously approved development funding.

Scheme Summaries

<p>LEEDS 2023: Women of the World, Women of West Yorkshire</p> <p>Leeds</p>	<p><u>Scheme description</u></p> <p>The LEEDS 2023: Women of the World, Women of West Yorkshire (WOW) scheme was a unique cultural project under the broader LEEDS 2023 programme. This initiative promoted gender equality in the construction industry and engaged women, girls, and non-binary participants from the West Yorkshire region. The peak of this initiative was the grand barn raising event on the 30 April 2023, an ambitious 24-hour endeavour that brought together 300 participants working in shifts of 50 at a time.</p> <p>The promoters are requesting to extend the scope of the project to build upon the momentum generated by the WOW project and further benefit priority areas. This change aims to extend and expand the project's duration and impact by introducing "The Gifting and Northern Dreaming."</p> <p>The scheme is to be delivered through the Single Investment Fund (SIF), Investment Priority 6 gainshare allocation.</p> <p><u>Impact</u></p> <p>The additional projects build on the previous project objectives, which were built around improving skills for women, girls and non-binary individuals, and bring in impacts focused on inclusivity in cultural events for deprived communities, to make culture accessible to all and to improve children's literacy and access to cultural events.</p> <p>Due to the nature of the scheme, no benefit cost ratio (BCR) has been calculated.</p> <p><u>Decision sought</u></p> <p>Approval to expand the scope of the LEEDS 2023 WOW scheme to include 'The Gifting' and 'Northern Dreaming', to extend the completion date to 29 February 2024, to increase the Combined Authority funding by £150,000 and that work continues on activity 5 (Delivery).</p> <p>Total value of the scheme - £2,226,384</p> <p>Total value of Combined Authority funding - £ 1,650,000</p> <p>Funding recommendation sought - £150,000</p> <p>A decision by the Combined Authority is sought as part of this report</p>
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- 3.10 Since the Combined Authority's meeting on 12 October 2023, no decision points or change requests have been assessed in line with the Combined Authority's assurance process and approved through the agreed delegation to the Culture, Heritage and Sport Committee.

4 Information

- 4.1 The Combined Authority's assurance framework requires that formal approval is given to the following elements of a scheme as part of its development:
- The progression of a scheme through a decision point to the next activity.
 - Indicative or full approval to the total value of the scheme funding requested.
 - The Combined Authority's entry into a funding agreement with the scheme's promoter.
 - The assurance pathway and approval route for future decision points.
 - The scheme's approval tolerances.

- 4.2 This report provides information required to enable the Combined Authority to approve each of the above elements.

Additional Approvals – delegation to the Director of Inclusive Economy, Skills & Culture

- 4.3 Approval is sought through this report, for the delegation of authority to the Director of Inclusive Economy, Skills and, to approve, in accordance with the Assurance Framework, a change request to the You Can Make It Here - Skills and Business Support for Culture scheme.
- 4.4 The change request is seeking approval to accept and spend up to £520,000 from the Department for Culture Media and Sport's Create Growth Programme. The project is also requesting a change in scope to accommodate the new funding, and some reallocation of funds previously approved for this scheme.
- 4.5 This delegation is sought to maintain programme delivery and spend targets and so that the approval to the project change request can be considered by the Director of Inclusive Economy, Skills & Culture.
- 4.6 The Combined Authority approves that:
- (i) Approval of the change request for the You Can Make It Here - Skills and Business Support for Culture scheme, to accept and spend up to £520,000 from the Department for Culture Media and Sport's Create Growth Programme, a change in scope to accommodate the new funding and some reallocation of funds previously approved, is delegated to the Director of Inclusive Economy, Skills & Culture.

<p>You Can Make It Here</p> <p>West Yorkshire</p>	<p><u>Scheme description</u></p> <p>This scheme will deliver a range of creative industry skills and business support across all five West Yorkshire districts, increasing opportunities for West Yorkshire residents to build a career in the creative, culture or sport industries.</p> <p>Approval is sought for a change request to accept additional funding of up to £520,000 from the Department for Culture Media and Sport's Create Growth Programme, to make changes to scope, and to reallocate already approved funds.</p> <p><u>Impact</u></p> <p>The additional funding will allow the programme to make changes to scope and to reallocate funds under the Create Catalyst strand. This will be used to support creative industry exports, and the establishment of the West Yorkshire music sector network. The change request also includes a further iteration of the West Yorkshire Young Poets Laureate Programme following the successful pilot which completed in Sept 2023. This will be funded by the Creative New Deal allocation.</p>
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Projects in Stage 1: Assessment and Sequencing

4.7 There are no schemes to review at this stage.

Projects in Stage 2: Scheme development

4.8 There are no schemes to review at this stage.

Projects in Stage 3: Delivery and Evaluation

Project Title	LEEDS 2023: Women of the World, Women of West Yorkshire
Stage	3 (delivery and evaluation)
Decision Point	Change request (activity 5)

Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:		
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Background

- 4.9 This scheme will be funded by the Combined Authority’s Gainshare Fund as part of the gainshare funding envelope for the Combined Authority’s Investment Priority 6 – Creative Industries, Culture, Heritage and Sport. This investment priority aims to recognise and develop the role Culture plays in supporting the visitor economy, thereby maximising the potential for cultural and creative businesses and their supply chains and increasing employment into the sector.
- 4.10 The LEEDS 2023 programme continues to promote Leeds and the wider region’s identity locally, nationally and internationally; celebrating and enhancing the region as a great place to live, work, visit and invest. As a forerunner of the region’s Years of Culture 2023-25, its impacts and legacy will be built upon across West Yorkshire well beyond 2023.
- 4.11 The Women of the World, Women of West Yorkshire scheme engaged women, girls, and non-binary participants from the West Yorkshire region to promote gender equality in the construction industry. The peak of this initiative was the grand barn raising event on 30 April 2023, an ambitious 24-hour endeavour that brought together 300 participants working in shifts of 50 at a time.
- 4.12 Following the barn raising event, the Women of the World (WOW) Barn became a hub for various activities including talks, debates, and performances. These activities served to foster creativity and skills development among the participants and emphasised the importance of imagination and innovation.

- 4.13 The WOW project legacy continues as the barn structure has been moved to a new, permanent home – Kirkstall Valley Farm. This enables Kirkstall Valley Farm to utilise the barn as a venue for their learning and engagement programmes.
- 4.14 Approval is now sought for additional funding of £150,000 and an increase in project scope to include the year of culture's closing event 'The Gifting'. This will build upon the momentum generated by the WOW project and further benefit our priority areas. This change aims to extend and expand the project's duration and impact by introducing "The Gifting and Northern Dreaming."
- 4.15 The Gifting is the closing event of the LEEDS 2023 year of culture. It will feature and build upon the WOW project both as part of the performance, and in the approach to reaching audiences that are often excluded from cultural events. Over a seven-day period 'The Gifting' will be a large-scale promenade show, featuring 20 live performances, original songs, and visual art installations in a non-theatre space (Versa Studios in Holbeck).
- 4.16 Northern Dreaming is a collaborative publication by LEEDS 2023 and the British Library. This book, intended for every child born in Leeds in 2023, contains a collection of poems and stories contributed by both emerging and established writers and is intended to enhance children's literacy. It is a key element of a comprehensive creative learning and engagement initiative. This program includes storytelling sessions tailored for young children and educational workshops conducted in 40 schools and community groups. These sessions, led by experienced facilitators and artists, aim to foster creativity in community settings, making it accessible to those that do not have easy access to other such enriching activities.
- 4.17 The additional funding sought will bridge a financial viability gap and fund measures necessary to make the performance more accessible. Measures that will be funded include the provision of discounted tickets, thereby removing a financial barrier to participation to groups including young people, students, local residents and residents on lower incomes. It will also be used to fund accessibility measures for the event, including the implementation of essential features such as chill-out areas, an accessibility viewing area, captioned performances, and British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation. These accommodations are crucial in ensuring that a diverse and inclusive audience can fully engage with the event, regardless of individual needs and preferences.

Outputs and Outcomes

- 4.18 The expansion of the scope will include additional outputs to those of the original WOW Barn project:

WOW Barn Outputs

- 1,135 women and girls have taken part in upskilling, training and volunteering opportunities (including schools programme).
- 2,000 women-led businesses have taken part in the marketplace.

- 8,000 women and girls have attended the programme and learned.
- 500 women and girls have taken part in physical activity/sports (partnership with Park Run or with Leeds Marathon which will take place over the same period and pass the WOW Barn).

The Gifting & Northern Dreaming Outputs

- Through a commitment to accessibility, 7,000 individuals attending “The Gifting” will have enriched experiences, as they will be able to fully engage with the event without any barriers or limitations.
- 300 volunteers will acquire valuable experience and develop skills in the creative sector whilst actively contributing to the success of “The Gifting”.
- 2,000 children and young people will participate in 40 creative learning and engagement sessions in schools, libraries and community settings.

Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 4.19 The WOW Barn project has undertaken a carbon impact assessment. This assessment will be expanded upon and updated to account for ‘The Gifting’. This update will ensure that the carbon footprint associated with The Gifting is thoroughly examined and incorporated into the existing assessment, maintaining a complete and up-to-date record of the WOW Barn (including The Gifting) project’s environmental impact. LEEDS 2023 has partnered with Sustainable Arts in Leeds (SAIL), and the year’s events have been delivered in line with SAIL’s Carbon Road Map. An officer from SAIL has been co-located in the LEEDS 2023 office to monitor progress of the Sustainable Action Plan throughout the lifespan of LEEDS 2023.
- 4.20 Learnings from this approach to minimising impact will be shared with the sector and so will assist other cultural organisations nationally to meet the aims within their local Climate Commission’s net zero strategies. The resources and tools generated through LEEDS 2023 and SAIL’s partnership will be transferred to partners across West Yorkshire as part of LEEDS 2023’s legacy.
- 4.21 LEEDS 2023 is:
- Rolling out carbon literacy training to the project team and partners.
 - Undertaking a Sustainability Audit to identify key impact areas and mitigations. Monitoring and reporting on activities are set against sustainability targets and use national and international standards such as ISO 20121 Sustainable events.
 - Working with their Sustainability Oversight panel for programme feasibility work and incorporating recommendations and actions into project delivery plans.
 - Limiting carbon intensive travel and ensuring its use only for significant moments of collaboration and project delivery.

Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.22 The implementation of this change request extends the reach of "The Gifting" to a wider and more diverse audience through free and discounted ticket initiatives.
- 4.23 By hosting the event in Holbeck, the project aims to foster community engagement, with a sense of pride and ownership. Versa Studios in Holbeck, situated near to Leeds City Centre, was chosen for its central, accessible location within a diverse community. This area is home to residents with lower levels of income, contributing to lower rates of engagement with cultural events.
- 4.24 The "Northern Dreaming Anthology" book will be distributed to babies born in Leeds in 2023 in collaboration with 37 local libraries, registrars, NHS, and parent / baby groups, forming deep connections within the local communities of Leeds. This approach ensures that the project's benefits will also reach and enrich the community in which it is situated.

Equality and Diversity Implications

- 4.25 Leeds City Council's Equality Diversity Cohesion and Integration (EDCI) screening has been undertaken for the WOW Barn and updated for 'The Gifting' and 'Northern Dreaming'. Equality and diversity impacts have been taken account of as part of the development of the scheme and the business case development.
- 4.26 Under the grant agreement between Leeds City Council and Leeds Culture Trust for LEEDS 2023, the Trust is required to have in place a policy for and report on Equality and Inclusion. The policy covers all employees, trustees, freelance contractors, external consultants, volunteers, interns, casual or agency workers.
- 4.27 "The Gifting" is designed to be fully accessible. Facilitates for those with disabilities include captioned performances, British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation and audio description. Chill-out areas will be available for sensory breaks, which is of particular benefit to those who are neurodiverse. Those with mobility issues will have access to a Changing Places toilet unit, and a designated accessibility viewing area.
- 4.28 Access and inclusion will be closely monitored by LEEDS 2023's in-house access and inclusion officer. Additionally, LEEDS 2023 operates a paid Access Advisory Group, which reviews access audits produced by the LEEDS 2023 access and inclusion officer in conjunction with the supporting producing teams.

Risks

- 4.29 The scheme risks and mitigations are:

- The risk that the project may not be attended by a wide range of participants from all social economic groups. To mitigate this the project team will incorporate embedded design features, such as accessible pricing and accommodations. The team are implementing targeted engagement strategies with priority communities, establishing a long-term engagement plan that has extended throughout the year.
- As the project nears its conclusion, there may be a reduction in staff levels, either due to contract expiration or other factors, which could potentially disrupt the project's final stages. This is mitigated by appropriate notice periods in staff contracts. This will provide the project with the necessary time to address potential staffing changes and ensure a smooth transition. The project may consider cross-training and succession planning to mitigate the impact of staff reductions and maintain project continuity.

Costs

- 4.30 The total scheme costs are £2,226,384 which includes the WOW Barn, the Gifting and Northern Dreaming.
- 4.31 The Combined Authority's contribution is £1,650,000 from the Gainshare fund.
- 4.32 The original LEEDS 2023 WOW scheme received full approval to total scheme costs of £1,500,000 from the Culture, Heritage and Sport Committee on 26 January 2023.
- 4.33 Approval is now sought for an additional £150,000 of Combined Authority funding, to contribute to The Gifting and Northern Dreaming, to be funded from the Single Investment Fund (SIF), Investment Priority 6 gainshare allocation.
- 4.34 The total cost of The Gifting and Northern Dreaming is £726,348. The remaining funding of £518,348 has been sourced from other third-party funders as shown below:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| • British Library | £90,000 |
| • Leeds City Council | £135,220 |
| • National Lottery Heritage Fund | £143,128 |
| • Arts Council England | £150,000 |

The remaining £58,000 is expected to be earned from the event through tickets and other sales.

- 4.35 The Combined Authority will need to enter into a funding agreement with Leeds City Council for additional expenditure of up to £150,000 from the Gainshare fund.
- 4.36 The Combined Authority has also provided additional funding of £633,000 for LEEDS 2023 from the Gainshare capacity fund Tranche 2. An additional request of £1,656,000 from Tranche 3 of the Gainshare capacity fund is

currently being considered by the Combined Authority. This would bring funding for LEEDS 2023 to £3,939,000.

Future Assurance Pathway and Approval Route

Assurance pathway	Approval route	Forecast approval date
5 (Delivery Closure)	Recommendation: Combined Authority's Programme Appraisal Team Decision: Combined Authority Director	29/02/2024

Other Key Timescales

- 22 December 2023 - The Gifting performances begin.
- 31 December 2023 - The Gifting performances end.

Assurance Tolerances

Assurance tolerances
<p>Combined Authority funding remain within +10% of those outlined in this report.</p> <p>Completion/service delivery date remains within +6 months of those outlined in this report.</p> <p>Outputs remain within -10% of those outlined in this report.</p>

Appraisal Summary

- 4.37 The proposed change to the project expands the scope and increases the original reach of the WOW Barn project to a larger and more diverse audience. The additional projects build on the previous project objectives, which were built around improving skills for women, girls and non-binary individuals, and bring in impacts focused on inclusivity in cultural events for deprived communities, to make culture accessible to all and to improve children's literacy and access to cultural events.
- 4.38 The additional projects seek to address a gap identified in inequality in access to education, literacy and cultural activities and the additional funding bid for would also ensure improved inclusion is fully supported.
- 4.39 It is noted by the appraiser that the change request submission does not supply evidence for the identified market failure or that the identified options would be effective in addressing the market failure. It is therefore uncertain if the case for change for this project has been sufficiently established.
- 4.40 A benefit cost ratio (BCR) has not been calculated for this project and a value for money position has also not been established it is therefore not possible to determine whether the preferred option is the most viable or best value for money.

- 4.41 The budget information provided by the promoter shows that the cost of the projects is £726,348 and that funding has been sourced of £518,348, with £58,000 expected to be earned from the event through tickets and other sales. This leaves a funding gap of £150,000. It therefore appears that the main economic incentive to support this project is due to a viability gap in the finances, particularly where the additional incentives to support inclusivity led to an additional cost which would impact on the financial viability.
- 4.42 The promoters wish to extend the original project timelines for the WOW Barn to meet the timelines for the additional projects. This extension is suitable and would align the project with the timelines for the additional projects as well as the completion timelines for LEEDS 2023.

Recommendations

- 4.43 The Combined Authority, subject to the conditions set by the Programme Appraisal Team, approves that:
- (i) The change request for the LEEDS 2023 Women of the World, Women of West Yorkshire scheme to expand the scope to include 'The Gifting' and 'Northern Dreaming', to extend the completion date to 29 February 2024 and to increase the CA funding by £150,000 is approved.
 - (ii) The total Combined Authority funding is increased by £150,000, from £1,500,000 to £1,650,000. The total costs of 'The Gifting' and 'Northern Dreaming' is £726,384, taking the total scheme costs to £2,226,384.
 - (iii) The Combined Authority enters into an addendum to the existing Funding Agreement with Leeds City Council for additional expenditure of up to £150,000 from the Gainshare fund.
 - (iv) Future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in this report.

5 Tackling the Climate Emergency implications

5.1 The Climate Emergency implications have been considered on all projects included in this report as part of their business case development.

6 Inclusive Growth implications

6.1 The inclusive growth implications have been considered on all projects included in this report as part of their business case development.

7 Equality and Diversity implications

7.1 Equality Impact Assessments (EqIA) have been undertaken on all projects included in this report as part of their business case development.

8 Financial implications

8.1 The report seeks endorsement to expenditure from the available Combined Authority funding as set out in this report.

9 Legal implications

9.1 The payment of funding to any recipient will be subject to a funding agreement being in place between the Combined Authority and the organisation in question.

10 Staffing implications

10.1 A combination of Combined Authority and local partner council project, programme and portfolio management resources are or are in the process of being identified and costed for within the schemes in this report.

11 External consultees

11.1 Where applicable scheme promoters have been consulted on the content of this report.

12 Recommendations (Summary)

Additional Approvals – Delegation to the Culture, Heritage and Sport Committee

12.1 The Combined Authority approves that:

- (i) Approval of the change request for the You Can Make It Here - Skills and Business Support for Culture scheme, to accept and spend up to £520,000 from the Department for Culture Media and Sport's Create Growth Programme, a change in scope to accommodate the new funding and some reallocation of funds previously approved, is delegated to the Director of Inclusive Economy, Skills & Culture.

LEEDS 2023: Women of the World, Women of West Yorkshire

12.2 The Combined Authority, subject to the conditions set by the Programme Appraisal Team, approves that:

- (i) The change request for the LEEDS 2023 Women of the World, Women of West Yorkshire scheme to expand the scope to include 'The Gifting' and 'Northern Dreaming', to extend the completion date to 29 February 2024 and to increase the CA funding by £150,000 is approved.
- (ii) The total Combined Authority funding is increased by £150,000, from £1,500,000 to £1,650,000. The total costs of 'The Gifting' and 'Northern Dreaming' is £726,384, taking the total scheme costs to £2,226,384.
- (iii) The Combined Authority enters into an addendum to the existing Funding Agreement with Leeds City Council for additional expenditure of up to £150,000 from the Gainshare fund.
- (iv) Future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in this report.

13 Background Documents

13.1 None as part of this report.

14 Appendices

14.1 None.