

1. Chester: UK City of Culture Initial Bid – Clarification Questions

Please find below the clarification questions on your bid document prepared by Regeneris Consulting. If you require any clarification on these questions before you answer them please do not hesitate to contact us via UKCoC2017@regeneris.co.uk.

Please provide your written response to these questions by your written responses to the questions **by 5pm on 21st May** at the latest.

We are looking for concise answers. It would be helpful to us if you could set out your response repeating the question below followed by your answer underneath.

Clarification Questions

- 1) The new theatre/library is clearly a central part of your bid. Can you please provide *[in no more than one page]*:
 - A. An explanation of the components of this project:
 - B. How much it will cost
 - C. Where you are at in terms of funding, design
 - D. The delivery and programme
 - E. What is the risk it will not be ready in time for 2017?
- 2) Similarly, the bid mentions other capital investment (mentioned on page 12) such as public realm, a “newly restored Grosvenor Park” and the creation of a new Grosvenor Museum. Can you explain how much these projects will cost, where you are in terms of funding, design and timetable for delivery?
- 3) Your area: the bid is focussed on the city of Chester but includes the wider hinterland.
 - A. Can you confirm which of the data and statistics used in the bid refer to Chester or the wider Chester and West Cheshire area (e.g. on page 13)?
 - B. There is mention of Tatton Park and other locations which are in Cheshire but not the CWAC area. How would these venues, if at all, be used and how would you ensure access to them?
 - C. The bid mentions connecting with your wider hinterland (including Wales). What elements of the bid are intended to connect with this hinterland and what steps have you taken so far to explore links with north Wales?

- 4) Practitioners (p10): how many of these partners have been contacts and expressed an interest in participating? Or are they just examples of potential partners at this stage?
- 5) Baseline (p13): are the jobs figures quoted before the impact of UK CoC in 2017?
- 6) Tourism impacts: it is not clear whether the impacts shown for 2017 are before or after the impact of UK CoC.
 - A. If the latter what is the expected additional impact of being UK CoC by 2017?
 - B. Does the annual visitor spend include day visitors?
 - C. The text mentions the importance of overnight stays. What is your baseline and target increase in number of visitor nights and spend by staying visitors
- 7) Developing the bid: can you clarify who are members of the Cultural Consortium? Is it all the organisations listed at Appendix D?
- 8) Funding and budget:
 - A. Does the budget in Appendix F include any element for funding the CoC team (i.e. programme management and administration?)
 - B. Is the £10.9m intended to all be spent in 2017, or does it include an element of programming in lead up years?
 - C. Can you clarify would has contributed what to the £2.4m (or is it £2.5m as mentioned on page 22) secured element? Is this the £1.2m from CWAC mentioned on page 21 plus some existing funding “re-purposed”
 - D. What is the EU funding source mentioned on page 21?
 - E. Where is the £0.65m LEP contribution intended to come from?
 - F. What is the extra £5m in capital needed for?
 - G. What experience does the area have of raising £2m from funding raising and philanthropy?
- 9) Current spend on culture: can you provide a broad breakdown of the current £4.7m CWAC spend on culture?
- 10) Venues: would Chester have any venues suitable for hosting national events such as the Turner Prize and does it have any aspirations to host such events?

Regeneris Consulting

13th May 2013