

CULTURE AND PROSPERITY COMMISSION 27 September 2004

Report of the Director of Development & Cultural Services

QUAD PROJECT UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION

1.1 That the Commission notes the recent developments in funding and siting.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 Our continuing discussions with major funders has led to the conclusion that the original target of £13.7 million is not achievable. This has triggered work on scaling down the project and opening up an options appraisal on the siting of Quad.
- 2.2 The Quad Consortium is pressing ahead with the work of securing the funding necessary for the project. The Arts Council England has been solid in their support, and part of their £2.5 million grant to the project is being used for this work. The focus of attention now is on the European Union, EMDA and EM Media.
- 2.3 The site appraisal has been very wide-ranging, starting with more than a dozen possibles. These are now being narrowed down to those which could work in terms of scale, location, availability and cost.

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Background papers: None or list

List of appendices: Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1.1 The current activity on behalf of the architects and the Project Director are being financed by the grant from the Arts Council of England with their agreement.

The latest assessment of the likely funding available for the Quad project is £7.75 million.

Legal

2.1 The Quad Consortium has appointed legal advisers with a brief to prepare for the creation of a company to take the project forward.

Personnel

3.1 None arising from the report.

Equalities impact

4.1 None arising from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 The proposal comes under the Council's Objectives of
 - job opportunities
 - shops, commercial and leisure activities
 - integrated, cost effective services.
- 5.2 The proposal furthers the priorities of
 - promoting the city as a major force for industry, commerce, culture and tourism
 - developing the management of the city and district centres to improve their attractiveness and viability
 - enhancing our community leadership role through partnership working and listening to, and communicating with, the public
 - improving customer service through a customer-focused culture, using new technology and investing in our buildings.