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**Report of the Chief Recreation Officer**

**Inner North West Area Committee**

**Date: 26<sup>th</sup> October 2006**

**Subject: Consultation exercise and Heritage Lottery bid for Woodhouse Moor Park**

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**  
Hyde Park & Woodhouse  
Headingley

**Specific Implications For:**

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

Council  
Function

Delegated Executive  
Function available  
for Call In

Delegated Executive  
Function not available for  
Call In Details set out in the  
report

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**Executive Summary**

The report explains the benefits of applying for a Heritage Lottery bid and how the Section 106 monies allocated for improvements on Woodhouse Moor Park are to be used for match funding in this bid. To strengthen the Lottery bid, a proposed North West Area Committee funded consultation exercise will be utilised to determine local community needs in relation to recreational improvements required on the Park

**1.0 Purpose Of This Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the North West Area Committee of the intention to submit a Heritage Lottery Parks for People bid to fund improvements at Woodhouse Moor Park.
- 1.2 Seek funding from the North West Area Committee for a public consultation exercise on the improvements for Woodhouse Moor Park

**2.0 Background Information**

- 2.1 Extensive improvements have already been achieved on Woodhouse Moor Park over the past two years that have included a new skate park, replacement of worn seating, additional litter bins, car barrier around the periphery of the Park and improved management of the wild flower meadow.

2.2 Additional funding is still required to implement a range of improvements to Woodhouse Moor Park so the local communities can access a range of quality recreational facilities that meet their needs. To achieve this it is proposed to apply for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) "Parks for People" Programme. A condition of this application is that we have to match fund the Lottery grant by at least 25%, as the maximum grant available would be 75% - the Council may therefore need to match fund in excess of 25% if the HLF award is lower than 75%.

2.3 To submit a grant application to the Heritage Lottery scheme it is important that the various improvements envisaged for Woodhouse Moor Park meet particular criteria for the scheme which are: -

- repairing and restoring landscape of all types;
- removing unsightly structures or planting which have a negative effect on the heritage value;
- conserving built features or associated group of features;
- improving biodiversity (wildlife and habitats);
- improving access for all;
- providing extra features to increase enjoyment for disabled people;
- buying land to reunite the historic landscape or improve facilities;
- buying original decorative features that were previously lost;
- creating replica or replacement features based on accurate research information;
- repairing things like boundaries, drainage and services;
- community facilities which respond to needs, such as cafés, toilets, education spaces and meeting rooms;
- park furniture, lighting and signs;
- new landscape design if it improves and adds to the heritage;
- recreation and play facilities;
- exhibition space, interpretation displays or publications;
- security work;
- repairing and improving essential services, particularly where they reduce emissions or increase energy efficiency;
- management and maintenance facilities, including recycling, composting and grazing;
- increased links to public transport; and
- Professional fees associated with designing and delivering capital work.
- You must give priority to repairing and reusing existing buildings in or next to the park, rather than providing new buildings or facilities.
- All facilities must directly benefit the park and the people who use it.

2.4 A draft timeline for the Heritage Lottery bid is shown in Appendix 2

### **3.0 Main Issues**

- 3.1 As a result of the proposed development of the Old Leeds Boys Grammar School, a sum of £255,697 "Sporting Facilities Contribution" has been apportioned from the Section 106 agreement. It is possible to use this money for match funding. Therefore applying the rulings of the Heritage Lottery Grant submission for match funding, we are entitled to pursue £767,091 from the Heritage Lottery fund giving us a total of £1,022,788 for projects on Woodhouse Moor Park if the 75% grant were approved.
- 3.2 An important requisite of the Heritage Lottery bid will be the consultation with the local communities to ascertain what recreational facilities they require. To achieve this we intend to do a household survey of 5000 residents that live in the vicinity of the Park. To fund this exercise we shall approach the North West Area Committee for monetary support.
- 3.3 Part of the consultation process will also include approaching local community groups which will include: -
- South Headingley Community Association
  - North Hyde Park Neighbourhood Association
  - Little Woodhouse Community Association
  - Moorlands Residents Association
  - Marlborough Residents Association
  - Friends of Woodhouse Moor Park
- 3.4 To ensure that the consultation process provides members of the local communities every opportunity to respond, additional open consultative sessions are to be held at appropriate venues in the vicinity of the Park with advertisements in the Yorkshire Evening Post.
- 3.5 A standard questionnaire (see Appendix 1) will be used for the various consultative exercises. The format of the questionnaire enables respondents to state clearly what improvements they would like to see and those they feel are not suitable.
- 3.6 Community members receiving the questionnaire will also get a letter that will contain the various action plan proposals from the Woodhouse Moor Management Plan. This information will enable them to reflect and consider in an objective way the type of improvements they would like to see on the Park. It will be made very clear that the action plans presented are not set in stone and are expected to be refined/altered/omitted to meet local needs.
- 3.7 Assuming a maximum of £767,091 of potential Heritage Lottery funding available, it is intended to pursue those objectives that meet local community needs, fulfill Heritage Lottery requirements and have not already been allocated with Section 106 funding.
- 3.8 In view of the loss of sporting facilities at the old Leeds Grammar School site, Sport England in conjunction with the Planning Department made it an obligatory

requirement that Section 106 monies must be used to upgrade/refurbish recreational sporting facilities on the Park. Thus the monies are to be spent on: -

- Upgrade of the tennis courts off Moreland Road - £140,388
- Existing tennis courts by skate park to be converted into a multi sports court - £94,859
- Creation of mini soccer pitches off Woodhouse Lane - £9,850
- Additional funds to enable the complete refurbishment of the Bowling pavilion off Moreland Road - £10,600

3.9 A comprehensive 5 year management plan has been written for the park which considers the contextual guidelines, site assessment, historical features and public consultation done in 2003 and 2004. These elements have been used to formulate the aims and objectives for the Park's management.

3.10 Woodhouse Moor Management Plan 2004 objectives are as follows: -

Element of Park	Objectives
Nature Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Woodhouse Moor Local Nature Area requires further development through additional habitat establishment, consistent and effective maintenance regimes and suitable interpretation material.</li> <li>• Assess the option of re-establishing a pond at the lowest point on the Local Nature Area.</li> <li>• Consider the option of rotational pruning so not all of the shrubs in a particular bed are attended to. This will retain a source of food, shelter and potential nesting sites for wildlife.</li> <li>• Where possible use plants for the bedding displays that provide a good source of nectar and pollen for invertebrates.</li> </ul>
Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with the police, Youth Service and Anti Social Behaviour Team to develop community safety schemes.</li> <li>• Ensure that Park's Patrol regularly visit the site.</li> <li>• Develop a Park's Watch as an integral part of a Friend's group to monitor the site and keep staff informed about issues that arise.</li> <li>• Install a boundary fence on Woodhouse Moor to deter unauthorised vehicle access.</li> <li>• Assess the feasibility of lighting on key paths transecting Woodhouse Moor.</li> </ul>
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the tennis and basketball courts and refurbish the trim trail.</li> <li>• Look at improving the kick about area and increasing their number</li> <li>• Standardise the seat design and select a robust design to be used throughout the Park and which is cost effective to repair.</li> <li>• Introduce suitable picnic tables that can also be used by disabled people and are located close to the tarmac paths or are served by a hard surfaced path and picnic table base.</li> <li>• Rationalise the litterbin design and select a robust design to be used throughout the Park. Look at ways to achieve a more efficient removal of the litter.</li> <li>• Improve the Cliff Road playground to meet current health and safety standards.</li> <li>• Expand the cycle routes across the Park so a link is made between the Kirkstall Lane-City Centre cycle route and the A660 cycle route.</li> <li>• Due to the popularity of the Skate Park and the concerns over its present poor state, upgrade the facility and introduce floodlighting to extend its use especially during the short winter days.</li> <li>• Restore the bowls pavilion with a more robust structure that is vandal proof.</li> <li>• Establish a barbecue area.</li> </ul>
Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve signage, educational value and interest of visitor experience through interpretation boards and directional signs.</li> <li>• Install a notice board to inform the public of Park issues and forthcoming events.</li> <li>• Develop a leaflet explaining the site.</li> </ul>
Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore possibilities of increasing the number and diversity of events to attract visitors to the Park.</li> </ul>

Community Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve communication with the public.</li> <li>Encourage volunteer participation and initiate the formation of a Friends' group with an integrated Parks Watch element.</li> </ul>
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear signage at access points.</li> <li>Ensure acceptable access for disabled people into and within the Park.</li> </ul>
Horticulture & Arboriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain the tree lined paths, which represents a key characteristic of the Park.</li> <li>Ensure the bedding displays, shrubs and rose beds produce a vibrant display of colour and form to attract the public.</li> <li>Improve the maintenance of the shrubs ensuring that the pruning is done at the correct times and that the cutting methodology does not lead to all of the shrubs cut to the same height.</li> <li>When replacing failed trees, look at replacing with a variety of native species to enhance the aesthetics of the site and benefit wildlife.</li> </ul>

3.11 It is quite likely that the objectives and associated action plans are likely to change as a result of the proposed public consultation. This does not represent a problem, since management plans are fluid documents that must take into account changing community needs besides central and local government policies. In addition the management plan is a prerequisite for a Heritage Lottery Grant bid.

#### 4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

4.1 Utilising Heritage lottery funding for the recreational improvements at Woodhouse Moor Park and the proposed North West Area Committee funding for the consultation exercise, we will support the following aims and themes of the following plans: -

- Parks & Countryside Service Planning Portfolio key aim for Outdoor Play of providing safe facilities, creating enjoyment, promoting a sense of community well-being and confidence in the outdoor environment
- Parks & Countryside Service Planning Portfolio key aim for Outdoor Sport of providing facilities for the enjoyment and participation in Outdoor Sport at every level.
- Parks & Countryside Service Planning Portfolio key aim for Parks & Open Spaces of providing and promoting these sites for recreation, increased pride and social well-being in the local community.
- Departmental Plan aim of creating better neighbourhoods and confident communities - Through enhanced community safety measures, cleaner areas, community involvement and management plans for Parks.
- Departmental Plan aim of making the most of people – Life long learning opportunities for all ages in the parks and green spaces. Health promoting activities and voluntary involvement.
- Corporate Plan strategic outcome of all neighbourhoods are safe, clean, green and well maintained – Enhancement and protection of the environment.
- Corporate Plan strategic outcome of all our children and young people are healthy, safe and successful – Environmental education and life long learning opportunities.
- Corporate Plan strategic outcome of each stage of life, people are able to live healthy, fulfilling lives – Suitable provision of quality greenspaces for improving well-being and physical recreation.
- Vision of Leeds theme on health and wellbeing – Through environmental conditions that promote a healthy and positive society and supporting people to stay healthy and promote equal chances of good health.

- Vision of Leeds theme on learning – Promoting lifelong learning.
- Vision of Leeds theme on thriving places – Regeneration and restoring confidence in every part of the city and by actively involving the community.

## 5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

5.1 Costings for the household survey are: -

Requirement	Estimate of costings
Purchase of envelopes, attach letterheads, pack with questionnaire and business reply envelope	£562
Print 5,000 questionnaires and business reply envelope	£410
Royal Mail Response Service	£319
Royal Mail Mailsort – covers postage and distribution within 7 days	£950
Up to date electoral register with current addresses	£650
Inputting and analysis of information assuming 25% return	£1594
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,485</b>

## 6.0 Conclusions

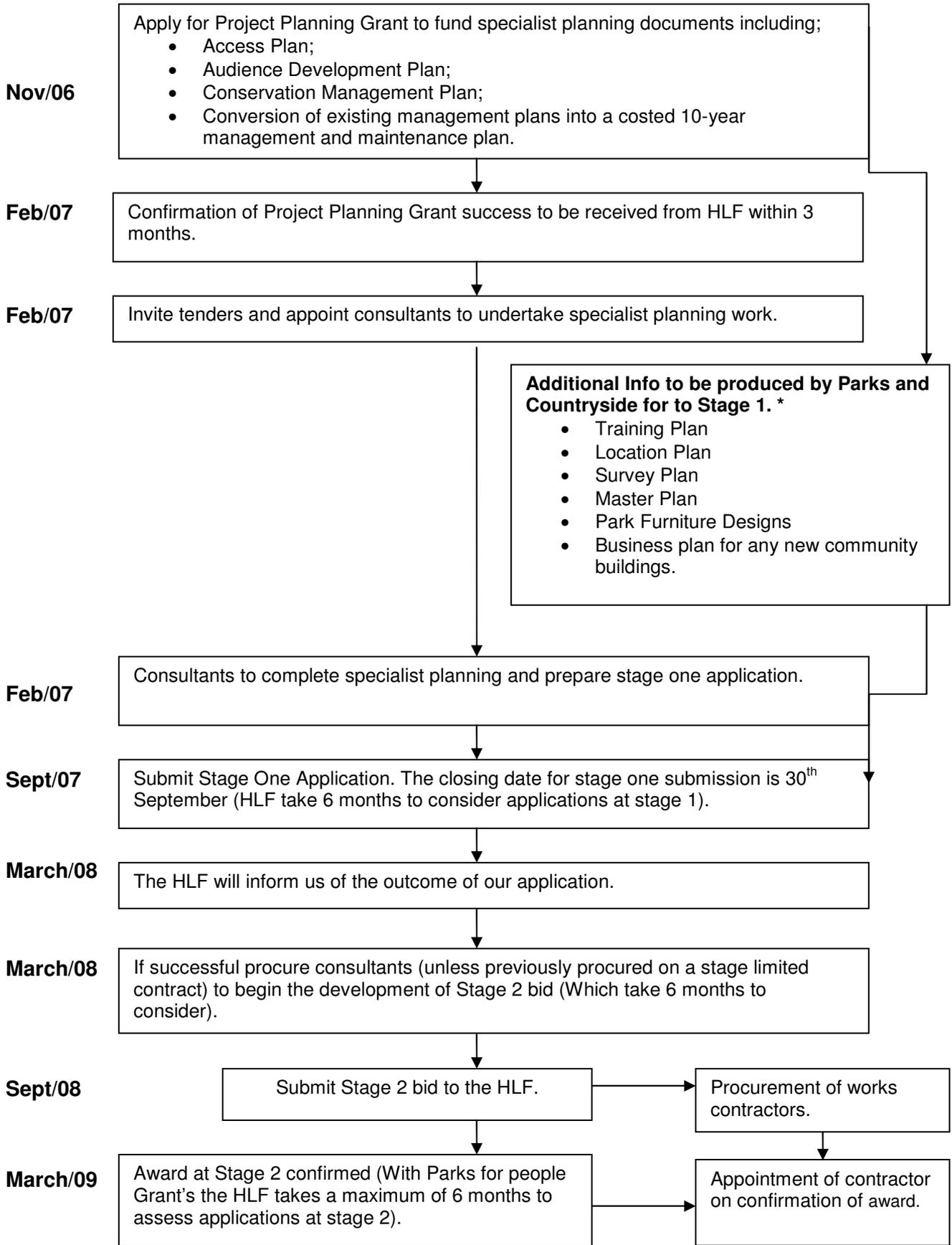
- 6.1 The benefits of applying for a Heritage Lottery bid will enable many of the action plans in the Woodhouse Moor Management Plan to be achieved.
- 6.2 Seeking funds from the North West Area Committee to do an expansive consultation exercise will ensure that the action plans for improving Woodhouse Moor Park meets local community needs and justifies Heritage Lottery funding requirement

## 7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 North West Area Committee is asked to;
- a) Support the proposal to seek Heritage Lottery funding to improve Woodhouse Moor Park, and
  - b) Approve the allocation of £4,485 Wellbeing to carry out the consultation exercise which is a requirement of the Lottery bid.



**Appendix 2 – Timeline for the Heritage Lottery bid.**



\* These items cannot be funded via the project planning grant