

Report of Director of Communities and Environment

Report to Executive Board

Date: 19th December 2018

Subject: Bids to Heritage Lottery Fund

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| Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s): Temple Newsam | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the decision eligible for call-in? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

Summary of main issues

1. The Future Parks Accelerator (FPA) is a new national initiative to develop ambitious solutions to secure and enhance the future of public parks and greenspaces for long term public benefit with up to £1m funding.
2. There is scope within this initiative to link this with a proposed bid of a maximum £250k to the Resilient Heritage grant fund for Temple Newsam Estate, which would add strength to both bids needing to be submitted mid-January 2019.
3. An expression of interest was submitted to the Future Parks Accelerator initiative on 19th November 2018. Confirmation has now been given by HLF that Leeds are one of ten applicants out of a total of ninety who will be invited to submit a full application.
4. The Parks and Countryside service in Leeds has led the way in developing innovative ways to develop the financial value of park assets whilst improving and sustaining community parks. This includes successful projects at Tropical World, Lotherton Wildlife World, the Arium, Golden Acre and Temple Newsam along with broader initiatives that utilise park assets for additional income.
5. Successful bids would provide additional capacity to fund posts in the Parks and Countryside service along with research and benefit from other expertise, including the National Trust.

Recommendations

Executive Board are requested to approve the following:

- To submit a bid to the Future Parks Accelerator initiative of up to £1m to help develop a parks and green space strategy to 2030 based on exemplar case studies delivered as part of the submission.
- To submit a bid to the Resilient Heritage fund of up to £250k to build capacity to develop a significant grant bid to restore heritage features at Temple Newsam Estate.
- That the Chief Officer Parks and Countryside is responsible for submitting bids in line with required timescales in mid-January 2019.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report outlines an opportunity to prepare funding applications to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) under the Future Parks Accelerator initiative and Resilient Heritage grant fund respectively.

2. Background information

- 2.1 The Future Parks Accelerator (FPA) is a new national initiative to enable up to eight organisations across the UK to develop ambitious solutions to secure and enhance the future of public parks and greenspaces for long term public benefit. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and National Trust have teamed up to create the Accelerator as a joint venture, with £10m of resource to back the ambitions and plans of these eight places and help make them a reality over the next two years. The £10m resources are half HLF grant and half National Trust expertise.
- 2.2 The Future Parks Accelerator fund aims to provide successful applicants with the following:
- Up to £1m funding to co-create an ambitious strategy and effective delivery plan for parks and green space in a given area
 - To access support and expertise in development new ideas
 - A catalyst to develop sustainable solutions
 - Opportunity to develop learning opportunities and inspiration for others
- 2.3 There is scope within this initiative to link this with a proposed bid to the Resilient Heritage grant fund for Temple Newsam Estate which would add strength to both bids needing to be submitted mid-January. A decision was made by Executive Board in February 2018 to submit a bid to the Heritage Grants programme and a recommendation to inject £100k into capital scheme 32890 approved.
- 2.4 Resilient Heritage grants are available to build capacity or achieve significant strategic change with a maximum grant of up to £250k. This is to be achieved through acquiring new skills or knowledge, leadership, business and income – in order to improve management of heritage for the long term. A bid to the Resilient Heritage fund has synergy with the Future Parks Accelerator initiative and will be an important step in preparations for a larger HLF grant bid of up to £5 million to restore key features at the estate.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 An expression of interest was submitted to the Future Parks Accelerator initiative on 19th November. Confirmation has now been given by the HLF that Leeds are one of ten applicants out of a total of ninety who will be invited to submit a full application which needs to gain Executive Board approval ahead of a deadline of 18th January 2019.
- 3.2 The success in being shortlisted is testament to the pioneering work that has been done in Leeds to embed the principles of civic enterprise in sustaining and improving the quality of parks and green spaces in Leeds. This includes the following:

- **The Arnold and Marjorie Ziff Tropical World.** A £1.7m investment in partnership with Ziff family trust to introduce new themed aquariums, crocodile enclosure, new species, a new conservatory café connected to expanded retail opportunities.
- **Lotherton Wildlife World.** The bird garden transformed with £750k investment in new species (including warty pigs, tapir and capybara), penguin enclosure with new retail and information point to what is now branded as Lotherton Wildlife World from March 2018.
- **Lotherton Christmas Experience.** This continues to be a popular attraction from late November through to Christmas with a twelve days of Christmas interactive walk, elf village and opportunity to visit Santa.
- **The Arium.** The Council's purpose built plant nursery with café, retail and play area offering opportunities for craft activities and education.
- **Middleton Park.** Following a successful HLF project Middleton Park achieved and has retained a Green Flag Award. December the 1st 2018 was the first anniversary of the opening of the Leeds Urban Bike Park and has proved a great success with over 275,000 visits in this first year and is being hailed as a project of national significance.
- **Golden Acre.** A partnership with a local window firm to double the interior space at the café by adding a conservatory extension and sustaining the outdoor patio area and enabled a new 'changing places' toilet facility.
- **Temple Newsam.** A partnership with 'Go Ape' to create a treetop adventure trail which opened in May 2018.
- **Concessions.** These are mainly via food and drink with now £350k income raised annually.
- **Business partnerships.** Working with local businesses to enhance roundabouts and other features in support of 'in bloom' activity.
- **Events.** Parks and Countryside host around 800 events each year, many of which are organised by local community groups through to world class events such as Roundhay Park playing host of Ed Sheeran in August 2019.
- **Parks and Green Spaces Forum.** Established in 2012 with nearly 120 members that include 'friends' groups and other interest organisations. Practical volunteering equates to around 109 full-time equivalent staff.
- **Rethinking Parks.** A successful bid for £171k over two years to this initiative was made in partnership with the Parks and Green Spaces Forum and Leeds Community Foundation. This was to conduct research and fundraising activity in support of the Leeds Parks Fund established in July 2017 as an opportunity for to enable support via charitable giving to parks and green space improvements.

3.3 Leeds City Council has therefore led the way in developing innovative ways to develop the financial value of park assets whilst improving and sustaining community parks. Managers within the Parks and Countryside service have spoken at a number of conferences at a national and regional level including the Future of Public Parks held in Westminster in July 2017, Parks and Green Spaces Core Cities Group, APSE North Conference, West Midlands Parks Forum, APSE Scotland Conference and APSE South Seminar. This is in addition from hosting a number of

visits from local authorities across the country and core cities, all interested to learn from the practical approach adopted in Leeds.

3.4 The bid proposal is based around exemplar projects to illustrate key themes at identified parks to inform a model parks and green space strategy. The current parks and green space strategy was endorsed by Executive Board in 2009 and is to 2020. The Future Parks Accelerator initiative provides an opportunity to develop a new ten year strategy to 2030 based on the idea of building sustainable parks with key themes including the following:

- Enterprising – to build on the approach already adopted.
- Heritage – to complement the Resilient Heritage bid at Temple Newsam.
- Climate change – to explore opportunities for alternative park management
- Business – to look at ways that links can be made to benefits that parks provide to business.
- Health – focus on park based initiatives and activities at a community park in a deprived neighbourhood
- Community co-design – greater community involvement in plans and management at suitable sites
- Site management plans – capture learning and community engagement via a ‘plan on a page’ approach.

3.5 The National Trust are a partner with HLF and will be providing in-kind knowledge and expertise. In particular this will be used to undertake community co-design activity based around the exemplar projects that are developed. They will also provide a useful source of information in developing a sustainable approach to heritage estates.

3.6 As indicated, one of the themes is heritage and it is anticipated that a successful bid for both the Future Parks Accelerator and Resilient Heritage fund would play an important part in developing a more ambitious bid to the Heritage Grants programme based on an approach that maximises the income potential on the estate to secure heritage improvements for future generations.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

4.1.1 An important aspect of both bids is the community engagement. As indicated the National Trust are a partner with HLF and will be providing in-kind knowledge and expertise. In particular this will be used to undertake community co-design activity based around the exemplar projects that are developed.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

4.2.1 An equality, diversity, cohesion and integration screening has been conducted and attached to this report with no actions arising at this stage in the process. Should the bid be successful then further decisions would be required that would be subject to a further equality review.

4.3 Council policies and best council plan

- 4.3.1 The proposals in this report support the Vision for Leeds 2011 to 2030 and in particular the aspiration that 'there are high quality buildings, places and green spaces, which are clean, looked after, and respect the city's heritage, including buildings, parks and the history of our communities' as part of the overall aim that 'all Leeds' communities will be successful'. The proposals contribute to the Best Council Plan outcomes to 'enjoy happy, healthy, active lives', and 'enjoy greater access to green spaces, leisure and the arts' and also priority 20 'enhancing the quality of our public realm and green spaces'.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and National Trust have teamed up to create the Accelerator as a joint venture, with £10m of resource to back the ambitions and plans of these eight places and help make them a reality over the next two years. The £10m resources are half HLF grant and half National Trust expertise. The maximum grant available is £1 million with any match funding provided by 'in kind' contributions, or capital in respect of any exemplar projects. The funding would cover research, expertise and could fund posts in Parks and Countryside on a two year basis.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

- 4.5.1 This is not a key decision at this stage as the bid is subject to approval. There are no legal issues identified with this report or with access to information. The report is subject to call in under the Council's constitution, rules and procedures.

4.6 Risk management

- 4.6.1 This funding provides an opportunity to build capacity to take forward a new Parks and Green Space strategy founded on the idea of sustainability, with the development of exemplar projects to underpin the strategy. There are no negative risks associated with this report.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The Parks and Countryside service in Leeds has led the way in developing innovative ways to develop the financial value of park assets whilst improving and sustaining community parks. The approach adopted in embedding the principle of civic enterprise is capturing attention at a national level and a bid to each of these respective HLF funds provides an opportunity to further develop and embed a model of sustainable parks as part of a new parks and green strategy for Leeds.

6. Recommendations

6.1 Executive Board are requested to approve the following:

- To submit a bid to the Future Parks Accelerator initiative of up to £1m to help develop a parks and green space strategy to 2030 based on exemplar case studies delivered as part of the submission.
- To submit a bid to the Resilient Heritage fund of up to £250k to build capacity to develop a significant grant bid to restore heritage features at Temple Newsam Estate.
- That the Chief Officer Parks and Countryside is responsible for submitting bids in line with required timescales in mid-January 2019.

7. Background documents¹

7.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.