

6th September 2016**Agenda Item: 10****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE****MANSFIELD TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE PROJECT****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Members on the proposal to re-submit the 'Mansfield Townscape Heritage Project' to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), and seek approval to:
 - a) re-affirm the allocation of £45,000 cash match funding (to be split over five years from 2017/18), and;
 - b) delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Place to sign a Partnership Agreement on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council.

Background

2. In 2015, an application was made by Mansfield District Council to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to support a 'Townscape Heritage' application. Nottinghamshire County Council were closely involved with the development of this application and agreed to contribute £45,000 in cash match funding. Unfortunately this application was un-successful. However, following feedback from the HLF, the application will now be re-submitted by Mansfield District Council.
3. The HLF 'Townscape Heritage' funding stream offers grants which can be distributed to businesses within a defined area to: conserve, repair or restore aspects of their physical property. By doing so, it is hoped that the work carried out will enhance the appearance of both the property and the locality in which it sits and consequently attract greater occupancy of the premises.
4. In Mansfield, the identified project area is the Market Place and Leeming Street, up to the junction of Clumber Street/Toothill Lane. This area was chosen due to its centrality to the town and because it contains some of Mansfield's most iconic buildings. It is one of the most deprived wards in Mansfield with the highest levels of unemployment.
5. One of the criteria for the HLF is that conservation skills be taught as part of the work being carried out. An element of volunteering is also encouraged. The volunteers can be involved in research and interpretation, as well as celebrating the local heritage.

6. The HLF application will map to the aims of a 'Townscape Heritage' project which is to bring empty properties back into use, in Mansfield this will consist of three main strands:
 - Work with business/property owners to undertake improvements including an increase in the number of buildings used commercially.
 - 'Heritage Interpretation': this could include activities such as the involvement of schools and colleges in local heritage exhibitions or re-enactments of historic events within the town.
 - An element of Public Realm works in Leeming Street.
7. Applications to the HLF for 'Townscape Heritage' projects have to be submitted by the end of August each year. It is envisaged that if an application is submitted in 2016, the project would be concluded in 2023. In the HLF process, there is an interim stage which (if successful) allows for the release of a 'development grant' (phase 1) to facilitate the completion of further detailed work, prior to submitting the final HLF application by December 2017 (phase 2).
8. The Partnership consists of Mansfield BID, Mansfield District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Vision West Nottinghamshire College. It is intended that these organisations would act as the steering group for the project. Mansfield District Council (MDC) will be the official applicant to the HLF under the steerage and direction of the Partnership Team. MDC will act as the employing body for any project officers and accounting body for finances.

Information and Advice

9. The project was considered an extremely strong submission by the Lottery Grant Panel. However, the primary reason the application was unsuccessful was due to the volume of applications received when compared to the limited availability of HLF funding.
10. Following detailed assessment of the submitted bid, the Lottery Grants team advised that they would welcome a re-submission of an amended bid and provided detailed feedback, suggesting areas the bid could be strengthened.
11. The Lottery Grants team advised that a future application for funding would stand a greater chance of success if Mansfield District Council made a capital contribution towards the total project cost. Without a capital contribution from Mansfield District Council, the Lottery team advised that they would be unlikely to approve a future application.
12. On 12th July 2016, the Mansfield District Council Portfolio holder for Regeneration approved a capital contribution of £75,000 to enable a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding to be submitted by the August 2016 deadline.
13. As a result of these changes, Nottinghamshire County Council are now being asked to re-affirm their support to this approach, including the previous allocation of cash match funding of £45,000 during the lifetime of the project. This cash

match funding will be from existing Economic Development Initiatives budgetary provision.

14. The timescales are that the HLF application will be made in August 2016 and a decision expected in January 2017. If successful, development funds (phase 1) would be released in April 2017 and the full application would be submitted to the HLF in late 2017. This would mean that the phase 2 project (for which our match is requested) would commence in 2018 and therefore the requirement for match funds would be from the 2018/19 financial year for a five year period of £9k per year.
15. It is a requirement of the HLF that a signed Partnership Agreement is submitted with the funding application. The agreement sets out the way in which projects will be directed and administered in order to improve the: appearance, aesthetics and business confidence within the town centre conservation areas.

Other options considered

16. Committee could opt not to support this initiative. However this might undermine the Council's role as a core partner to regeneration efforts in Mansfield and could have an impact on the partnership's ability to draw down HLF monies.

Reason(s) for Recommendations

17. This report has been prepared to update the Committee on the 'Mansfield Townscape Heritage Project' and the re-submission of the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The contribution of £45,000 from Nottinghamshire County Council would represent approximately 5% of the total investment in Mansfield town centre. A signed Partnership Agreement would be required in order to comply with the HLF regulations.

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described within the body of the report.

RECOMMENDATION

19. It is recommended that Committee:

- a) support the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund and contribute a total of £45,000 as match funding. These funds would be allocated as £9,000 per year over a five-year period commencing in the 2018/19 financial year, and;
- b) delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Place to sign a Partnership Agreement on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council.

Tim Gregory
Corporate Director, Place

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
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Constitutional Comments [SLB 08/08/2016]

Economic Development Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (SES 19/08/16)

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers

- *Economic Development Strategy – Delivery Plan and Budget 2014-15*, report to Economic Development Committee, 11th March 2014, published
- Minutes of Economic Development Committee, 11th March 2014, published
- *Town Centre Initiatives 2014-15*, report to Economic Development Committee, 3rd June 2014, published
- Minutes of Economic Development Committee, 3rd June 2014, published
- Economic Development Committee, March 3rd 2015
- Economic Development Committee, 8th September 2015

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Mansfield East, Mansfield North, Mansfield South, Mansfield West