

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

PILGRIM ROOTS - NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Purpose of the Report

1. This report updates Policy Committee on the national and local 2020 Mayflower celebrations and seeks approval to allocate:
 - a) £25,000 in support of a Heritage Lottery Fund bid;
 - b) £30,000 (from Growth and Economic Development Initiatives budgets in future years) towards complementary Pilgrim Roots activities across the county.

Information and Advice

2. The Council Plan 2017-2020 sets out a series of commitments for the future of the County, including the promotion of Nottinghamshire's local heritage and excellent visitor attractions, many of which have global significance. We want to share everything Nottinghamshire has to offer with as many people as possible because our local heritage is a tremendous asset which has not always been sufficiently championed.
3. The 400th anniversary countdown of the Mayflower ship sailing from England and arriving in America, provides an exciting opportunity for Nottinghamshire to commemorate its Pilgrim ancestors and to share their inspirational story with the world. On 16 September 1620, a total of 102 passengers took the 66 day, perilous 3000 mile journey from their homeland to Plymouth Massachusetts, America. They consisted of men, women and children from different walks of life. Today, a staggering 35 million people claim an ancestral lineage that runs all the way back – of up to fifteen generations – from the original 24 fathers on board. That number represents 12 percent of the American population.
4. Many of the Mayflower Pilgrims were from Nottinghamshire including William Brewster who inspired by Richard Clifton rector of All Saints, Babworth set up a separatists church at Scrooby Manor. He in turn was a key influence on William Bradford from nearby Austerfield. It was Bradford who later went on to become the first governor of the Plymouth Colony. In turn, it is Bradford's "*Of Plimoth Plantation*" that is the primary account of the religious struggles and journeys. There are also strong connections to Gainsborough, Immingham and in particular Boston where in 1607 many of the Scrooby congregation were captured at Scotia Creek and tried at Boston Guildhall attempting to depart to Holland to escape religious intolerance. They were freed a month later and in 1608 were successful in escaping to Holland.
5. The Mayflower voyage set in train a series of events which provide a direct link from the Magna Carta Libertatum (a charter agreed to by King John of England on 15 June 1215) and

the founding principles of British democracy through to the Mayflower Compact, the American Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. This is considered the foundation of the “special relationship” between the United Kingdom and the United States.

6. The 2020 anniversary will have a strong resonance for those Americans, Dutch and British who can trace their lineage to the separatists and the crew that took part in the voyage.

Mayflower 400 Programme

7. The Mayflower 400 Programme aligns 12 core destinations in England with wider local, national and international partners. It will deliver a world-class series of events, public art and wider content that will commemorate this exceptional voyage, knitting together communities, inspiring creativity and culture, driving economic growth and promoting understanding and education.
8. An award of Discover England funding has helped to complete a survey to forecast US tourist interest for 2020, secure activities to develop bookable products, market “2020” to the world travel trade market and to develop a national Mayflower 400 website (<http://www.mayflower400uk.org/>).
9. A national bid to the Arts Council is under development, aimed at exploring events and projects to support the anniversary. The County Council remains engaged to ensure Nottinghamshire’s contribution to the impact of the Mayflower’s journey is recognised and fully maximised for generations to come.

Pilgrim Roots Partnership

10. Six of the twelve Mayflower 400 trail destinations are located in and around Nottinghamshire. The three villages of Scrooby, Babworth and Sturton-le-Steeple have a key role in the roots story. A regional response to the 2020 anniversary has emerged through the development of the Pilgrim Roots Partnership (consisting County Councils, Districts, tourism bodies, community and voluntary groups). The County Council is a member. The Partnerships activities are focused on the “roots story” which sets out where the pilgrims originated, worshipped or where key events took place prior to the sailing of the Mayflower. The partnership will ensure that the 2020 event is marked appropriately in the region and that the area is presented as a viable destination as part of a wider package to visitors.
11. The Pilgrim Roots Partnership successfully passed a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Stage 1 submission with a project called “The Pilgrim Roots: The Separatists Story, Mayflower 400 and beyond”. The County Council is working with Bassetlaw District Council to submit this spring a Stage 2 bid with an expected value of £447,800. Some of the Separatists are thought to have worshipped clandestinely at Gainsborough Old Hall across the Nottinghamshire border in Lincolnshire. The project will deliver the following four activities: connect Retford and Gainsborough via a regional trail linking key heritage sites; create a Pilgrim Roots Gallery at Bassetlaw Museum in Retford; a suite of digital resources (including a website); and an over-arching Heritage Engagement Plan to develop a series of nine interpretation panels situated at key sites/villages with supporting Wi-Fi access. Two temporary posts will be created to support educational outcomes and community engagement.

12. The success of the Stage 2 project will be in part due to securing match funding from partnership members. As a Pilgrim Roots partner, the County Council is required to both formally support the bid and provide a financial contribution of £25,000 to the projects capital provisions. This level of grant leverage is excellent in proportion to the investment and could be met from the Growth and Economic Development Initiatives base budget (from financial year 2019-2020), subject to Policy Committee approval.

County Council – Additional activities to support the 2020 Anniversary

13. Nottinghamshire has a wider association with the separatists' story and religious heritage to add to the tourism offer and strengthening of legacy visits.
14. Initial proposals include the opportunity for: Inspire and Celebratory and Regulatory Services to develop programmes of activities to secure community and educational engagement around the roots story; bespoke interpretation and exhibitions development at key sites (primarily using County Council venues where appropriate); heritage event development; and a Nottinghamshire-focused marketing campaign.
15. These activities are likely to cost in the region of £30,000, spread over three financial years, and are proposed to be met from the Growth and Economic Development Initiatives base budget, subject to Policy Committee approval. This year's £5,000 instalment, will be met from the 2017/18 Growth and Economic Development Initiatives base budget. For Financial Year's 2019/20 (£7,500) and 2020/21 (£17,500), it is suggested that these amounts would be presented as part of the annual budget setting process.
16. More detail will be presented to Policy Committee in the near future setting out a proposed plan.

Other Options Considered

17. The option presented seeks to complement and add value to the regional activity for the wider benefit of the county's visitor economy and to promote community engagement. Given the importance of the anniversary and the relevance of the County in the story, the option of doing nothing was discounted.
18. The option of leaving this to the private sector has also been discounted as the offer is fragmented, the forecast demand modest and the commercial return unclear thereby limiting the interest for private investment. Support from the public sector is considered a critical catalyst to stimulate interest and engagement across the sector.

Reasons for Recommendations

19. Local success in securing HLF funding has strengthened the local partnership to develop a response to the anniversary. This work, focused on North Nottinghamshire, is seen as excellent value for money to maximise grant investment in the county. The additional budget sought to develop interest and support the sector across the county area is seen as investment to increase the county's profile as a destination for visitors and to promote heritage engagement.

Statutory and Policy Implications

20. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

21. The funding requests are as set out in the body of the report. The proposed resources would be allocated from the Growth and Economic Development Initiatives budgets in future years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Policy Committee:

- 1) Approves £25,000 from 2019/20 Growth and Economic Development Initiatives base budget in support of Bassetlaw District Council's Stage 2 Heritage Lottery Fund submission;
- 2) Approves the sum of £30,000 (allocated from Growth and Economic Development Initiatives budgets in future years) towards complementary Pilgrim Roots activities across the county.

COUNCILLOR MRS KAY CUTTS, MBE
Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Nicola McCoy-Brown, Growth and Economic Development, 0115 9772580

Constitutional Comments [CEH 15/01/18]

22. The recommendations fall within the remit of Policy Committee under its terms of reference.

Financial Comments [SES 10/01/18]

25. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- *Pilgrim Fathers' Feasibility Study and Mayflower 400*, report to Economic Development Committee, 18th November 2014, published

- *Pilgrim Fathers Feasibility Costs and appointment*, Report to Economic Development Committee, 3rd February 2015, published
- Pilgrim Fathers Feasibility Study – Bowles Green Ltd, 2015
- *A countywide approach to the Mayflower 400 Project*, report to the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee, 25th November 2016, published
- *Mayflower 400 – US Ambassador's Event*, report Economic Development Committee, 6th December 2016, published

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

ALL