

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL**PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE MILL ADVENTURE BASE****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to the acceptance of a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant being spent on improving the facilities at the Mill Adventure Base, to enter into a Partnership Agreement with Ashfield District Council (ADC) over the terms of the grant and for a lease renewal of the centre being brought into line with the timescales of the HLF grant.

Information

2. ADC have been successful in securing a development grant towards a second stage Heritage Lottery Bid for a project called the King and Miller to Kingfisher which seeks to connect residents of Ashfield and Mansfield with the 18th century industrial heritage at Kings Mill reservoir through a new Maun Trail footpath and cycle route between the towns and the reservoir.
3. The County Council has already pledged matched funding of £135,000 to the overall project with £12,096 committed to date with the remainder payable on the success of the next stage of the bid. This funding was approved at the Finance and Property Committee on 9 November 2015.
4. Part of the bid includes improvements to the existing NCC run Mill Adventure Base café which would enhance the visitor experience and develop the heritage information available within the café.
5. The Young Peoples Service should benefit financially from the expected increase in visitors to the café helping to make the centre become self-financing.
6. The increased public awareness that this project will give to the Adventure Base will provide opportunities to widen the customer base and potentially develop other activities.
7. The existing lease runs to May 2029. The proposal is to surrender this lease and agree a new one in line with the 20 years HLF funding timescale. The heads of terms of the proposed new lease are attached in Appendix1.
8. There will be a potential clawback on this funding should the service cease during the funding period.

9. A condition of the funding is that a Partnership Agreement will be entered into, this will be done after consideration by NCC Legal Services.
10. The capital funding available for works to the café including internal works to form a Heritage Centre is £125,536, an additional amount of £20,039 is for improvements to the landscape and entrance from the reservoir. The total capital grant funding available for works is £145,575.
11. The Heritage Lottery award is expected in September 2018 and the programme of work for the entire project including matched funding totals £1.5m. It has been agreed that the design and build of the café project will be procured and carried out by ADC. A licence will be entered into to allow access to the site by ADC and their contractors.
12. Additional to the capital works, funding totalling £115,840 has also been applied for to employ a Ranger Post. The funding lasts for a period of three years and it is proposed that this post would be employed by NCC and report to the Mill Adventure Base manager. The funding includes all employment costs including any redundancy at the end of the three years. There is no pay back on this funding as it would be claimed retrospectively each year.
13. The existing lease contains a break clause in favour of NCC giving only six months' notice. The new lease will also contain this clause therefore the risk to NCC in accepting the grant funding is the potential clawback and the extension from 2029 to 2038 which prolongs the liability period where NCC would have to reinstate the site back to its original condition if the break clause was triggered.
14. The financial summary is therefore as follows:-

NCC Funding to overall HLF Project	£135,000
NCC Paid to Date	£12,096
Value of work to Adventure Base	£145,575
Funding for NCC Ranger post	£115,840

Other Options Considered

15. The Council could choose not to accept any HLF grant funding and not change the term of the lease. However this would weaken the overall ADC bid as partnership working is an important feature of the bid.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

16. The HLF grant funding will be used to enhance the Mill Adventure Base which will be of benefit to the public and also develop the economic viability of the service.

Statutory and Policy Implications

17. 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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that: -

- 1) Policy Committee approves the HLF grant funding being spent on the Mill Adventure Base and the necessary changes to the staffing structure as set out in the report.
- 2) That a Partnership Agreement with ADC covering the terms of the funding is entered into subject to consideration by Legal services.
- 3) That the existing lease is surrendered and renewed to match the term of the funding.

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE

Leader of The Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Gerry McKeown, Growth and Development Tel: 0115 9773617

Constitutional Comments (EP 04/05/2018)

19. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Policy Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments [RWK 04/05/2018]

20. The report proposes the County Council makes a grant of £135,000 as a contribution to works to be undertaken at the Mill Adventure Base. Provision for this payment has been included in the County Council's approved Capital Programme.
21. The report also informs committee that further grant funding has been applied for in the sum of £115,840. This sum would finance the employment costs of a post of ranger for a 3 year period. A further report will be presented to establish this post should the grant application be successful.

Background Papers and Published Documents

22. 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.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

23. Ward(s): Sutton Central & East
Member(s): Councillor Samantha Deakin

