

**19 April 2022****Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, INVESTMENT AND GROWTH****MINER2MAJOR LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an update on the achievements of the Miner2Major Landscape Partnership Scheme to date.
2. To seek approval for the extension of the three core project roles to the end of June 2024.

**Information**

3. Miner2Major is a 5-year Landscape Partnership Scheme supported by a £2.45m grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). The County Council is the lead partner and accountable body for the Scheme and employs the core staff team.
4. Starting in 2019, Miner2Major is working with a wide range of partners and local communities to help them to better understand, explore and protect the rich heritage and natural environment of the historic Sherwood Forest. The original Scheme end date approved by NLHF is 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, with practical completion of the individual projects by September 2023.
5. The Covid-19 pandemic and related restrictions have, inevitably, had an impact on the Scheme's ability to deliver the required outputs and outcomes. Despite this, the partnership has achieved a great deal and this report is accompanied by a presentation that will provide Members with further information on the work of the Scheme partners.
6. The impact of the pandemic on outputs and outcomes has been assessed through a thorough process of review and evaluation with the Lead Officers for each of the projects and with the Partnership Board, as part of the interim evaluation. Whilst some projects will still be able to complete within the original timescales, for others it has been identified that an extension of time will be necessary, if they are to achieve their agreed outputs and outcomes.
7. At its meeting in January 2022, the Miner2Major Partnership Board agreed to make a formal request to NLHF for an extension of the Scheme to the end of June 2024, and for the use of unallocated contingency budget to cover the costs of extensions to relevant staff contracts. In addition to the three Scheme staff employed by the County Council, this would include two part-time staff employed by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust to co-ordinate the Special Species and Better Habitats capital works and volunteering programmes. The latter two posts were due to end on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and will now be extended to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

8. Formal confirmation was received from NLHF in a letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and the terms of the grant have now been varied to extend the Grant expiry date to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.
9. Approval is now sought for the extension of the contracts of the three core Scheme staff employed by Nottinghamshire County Council to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The total additional cost of the salaries and associated on-costs for the Scheme Manager, Finance and Admin Officer and Engagement Officer, plus the two Wildlife Trust staff, has been calculated at £90,000. This can be contained within the overall funding for the Scheme through use of the unallocated contingency budget (£70,000), with the remainder from other identified underspends.

### **Other Options Considered**

10. The Miner2Major Board was asked to consider a range of options, including different combinations of staff and potential extension dates. The option selected was considered to give the best opportunity to achieve the required outputs and outcomes within the available Scheme budget.

### **Reason for Recommendation**

11. To enable the Scheme partners to achieve the required outputs and outcomes and fulfil the conditions of the Grant.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

12. 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**

13. The financial implications are as set out in paragraph 9. All additional staffing costs can be covered within the overall funding for the Scheme.

### **Implications for Sustainability and the Environment**

14. The Scheme makes connections between habitats to improve their resilience and long-term sustainability, engages members of the community in ensuring that their heritage is better managed and more sustainable and provides individuals and communities with the skills and understanding they need to do so. The proposed extensions to the posts employed by the Wildlife Trust will ensure that the work to enhance Sherwood's habitats and species can be completed.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Committee notes the achievements of the Miner2Major Landscape Partnership Scheme to date and approves the extensions to the contracts of the Scheme staff as set out in paragraph 9.

**Matthew Neal**  
Service Director, Investment and Growth

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:** Heather Stokes, Team Manager Conservation, Tel: 0115 9932592

### **Constitutional Comments (LPW 21/03/2022)**

15. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Economic Development and Asset Management Committee.

### **Financial Comments (SES 16/03/2022)**

16. The financial implications are as set out in paragraph 9. All additional staffing costs can be covered within the overall funding for the Scheme.

### **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.

- None

### **Electoral Divisions and Members Affected**

- All