

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE****SHERWOOD LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME – ESTABLISHMENT OF  
TEMPORARY POST****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for the establishment of a temporary Community Archaeology post to support the development stage of the Landscape Partnership Scheme.

**Information and Advice**

2. In May 2014, the County Council submitted a Stage 1 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnerships programme on behalf of a broad group of partners. The application, entitled "*From miner to Major: the real Sherwood Forest*", was approved by the national Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Board in a highly competitive process in October 2014. The grant was approved subject to meeting a small number of additional conditions. Formal Permission to Start was received in May 2015 and the Stage 1 development phase got underway with the recruitment of the Project Development Manager from September 2015.
3. The Development Stage application made provision for six pieces of work to be taken forward by external consultants, including the production of a built / cultural heritage report to inform project development and the engagement of consultants was approved by Culture Committee in January 2015.
4. One of the additional conditions of the grant from HLF, however, was to ensure that any archaeology proposals would add value to and complement natural and built heritage work that is currently underway in Sherwood Forest. Further advice established that this would need to be achieved through improved co-ordination, integration and the development of best practice guidance.
5. The Framework put forward to address this condition recommended the establishment of an expert advisory panel to provide best practice guidance for community archaeology, to advise on the development of the archaeology programme and monitor proposed archaeology projects for the Sherwood Landscape Partnership Scheme.
6. The Nottinghamshire Archaeology Panel (NAP) has now been established and includes representatives of the University of Nottingham, Southwell Diocese, Historic England, the Council for British Archaeology, the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers and the County Council. A research framework to guide the major themes, building on those identified in the Stage 1 application, is currently being developed.

7. Whilst the establishment of the Panel obviates the requirement for consultancy support, it has been identified there is still a need to provide dedicated support for the work of the Panel, particularly for community engagement, to raise public awareness and support for local heritage and to develop project proposals within the overarching research framework. It has been identified, however, that the use of contractors to undertake this development work could preclude their ability to tender for any delivery stage contracts.
8. It is, therefore, proposed to establish a temporary Community Archaeologist post within the Conservation team to provide support for the work of the Nottinghamshire Archaeology Panel during the development stage of the Sherwood Landscape Partnership Scheme. The post would be employed by the County Council and report to the NAP.
9. The job description, person specification, salary and timeframe for the temporary Community Archaeologist post are subject to agreement by the Panel and HLF, with sign off by the Sherwood LPS Board. It is envisaged, however, that the salary will be at a similar level to existing Community Archaeology posts, namely Grade 4 and that the post will be for a period of 6 – 8 months in the first instance. Recruitment and procurement will be bound by HLF and County Council procedures and it is anticipated that the recruitment will be completed by the end of March 2016. The costs of the temporary post are contained within the grant funding.

### **Other Options Considered**

10. The County Council could choose not to employ the staff directly, with a view to this role being undertaken by one of the partner organisations or by a commercial contractor. The former would, however, significantly increase the risk to the authority in its agreed role as accountable body. It would also not result in a reduction to the staff input required, as the levels of monitoring required to ensure compliance with HLF's terms and conditions would increase as direct staff reports and management decreased. It has been identified that the employment of a contractor to undertake the development work could also preclude their ability to tender for any delivery stage contracts.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

11. The County Council is the lead partner and accountable body for the Sherwood Landscape Partnership Scheme. As such, the authority will be directly responsible for ensuring that the Development Stage funding is defrayed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant and that the Stage 2 application is successfully developed and submitted within the agreed timescales. The proposal will assist in meeting the conditions required by HLF.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service 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**

The funding for the temporary Community Archaeologist is contained within the Heritage Lottery Fund grant for the Stage 1 Development phase.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

To approve the establishment of a temporary Community Archaeologist post to support the work of the Nottinghamshire Archaeology Panel in the development of the Landscape Partnership Scheme through to the successful submission of a Stage 2 application, subject to agreement with HLF.

**Tim Gregory**  
**Corporate Director, Place**

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## **Constitutional Comments [LM 23/11/15]**

The recommendations in the report fall within the Terms of Reference of the Culture Committee.

## **Financial Comments [SES 23/11/15]**

The financial implications are set out in the report.

## **Background Papers**

None

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All