

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR POLICY, PLANNING AND
CORPORATE SERVICES****SHERWOOD LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME – DEVELOPMENT
STAGE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an update on progress with the Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) for Sherwood.
2. To seek approval for the recruitment of a temporary Project Development Manager to manage the development of the Landscape Partnership Scheme.
3. To seek approval for the engagement of consultants to assist with the development of the LPS as set out in the project briefs.
4. To confirm the County Council's match funding for the Development Stage of the Sherwood LPS.

Information and Advice

5. 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 including the Forestry Commission; Friends of Moor Pond Wood; Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield and Mansfield; Greenwood Community Forest; Natural England; Newark and Sherwood District Council; Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust; Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire; Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; and, Sherwood Forest Trust.
6. The application, entitled "*From miner to Major: the real Sherwood Forest*", was considered by the national Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Board in a highly competitive process in October 2014. Confirmation has now been received that the application has been successful and it is anticipated that the Stage 1 development phase will start early in 2015.
7. HLF will provide £119,000 of funding for an 18-month programme of research, consultation and planning. Activities during the Development Stage will include confirmation of the area and the strategic projects, securing match funding and ensuring that all necessary consents are in place. There will also be a range of community engagement activities to seek local views and ideas for community-based projects. The conclusion of the development work will be the submission of a Stage 2 application for the delivery phase, which will aim to unlock more than £3m of investment in the Sherwood LPS area.
8. Although the detailed work programme will be drawn up during the Development Stage, it is anticipated that projects will be under three main themes:

- Natural Heritage - habitat restoration and re-creation, increasing skills of volunteers, improved recording and management.
- Built and Cultural Heritage - community-led investigation and conservation; inspiring wider audiences and training key people in heritage skills.
- Access - connecting people with the real Sherwood by increasing physical and intellectual access.

Community engagement will be central to all three themes.

9. The County Council is providing the lead body role for the Sherwood LPS and this will be managed through the Conservation team. The Development Stage grant from HLF makes provision for the following:

- The recruitment of a temporary Project Development Manager (Band B, £29,558 plus on-costs) for 18-months to ensure that development progresses to agreed timescales/milestones. The post would be employed by the County Council and report to the LPS Board.
- Funding for six pieces of work to be taken forward by external consultants, namely the production of a built/ cultural heritage report to inform project development; support for the production of a Landscape Conservation Action Plan and an Audience Development Plan; a review of climate change adaptation potential; a skills audit/ gap analysis of the partnership; and, an environmental economist to develop an ecosystem services project.

10. The job description, person specification and salary for the Project Development Manager have been agreed by the LPS Board and HLF. Similarly the project briefs and budget for the external consultants have also been agreed. Recruitment and procurement will be bound by HLF procedures. The costs of both the temporary post and the consultancy support are contained within the grant funding.

11. The total cost of the Development Stage will be £149,000, with HLF providing 80% funding. Match funding of £30,000 in both cash and in kind support will therefore be required. The County Council is asked to provide £4,000 of match funding over 18 months and this can be found from within the Conservation budget.

Other Options Considered

12. The County Council could choose not to employ the staff and/or consultants directly, with a view to this role being undertaken by one of the partner organisations. It has already been identified, however, that this would 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 and contract management decreased.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. 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.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. 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 Project Development Manager post and the recruitment of consultants is included within the Heritage Lottery Fund grant for the Stage 1 Development phase. The County Council's match funding contribution is set out in paragraph 11 of the report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) To note the successful Stage 1 application for the Sherwood Landscape Partnership Scheme.
- 2) To approve the recruitment of a temporary Project Development Manager to manage the development of the Landscape Partnership Scheme through to the successful submission of a Stage 2 application.
- 3) To approve the engagement of consultants as set out in the Stage 1 application, to assist with the Development Stage.
- 4) To confirm the County Council's contribution of £4,000 over 18 months.

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Constitutional Comments [CEH 31/12/14]

The recommendations fall within the remit of the Culture Committee by virtue of its terms of reference. In addition to compliance with the terms and conditions of the Heritage Lottery Fund grant, the recruitment of a temporary post and engagement of consultants will need to comply with the Council's own procedure rules and Financial Regulations.

Financial Comments [SEM 17/12/14]

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All