

REPORT TO:		Cabinet	
DATE:		08 June 2016	
PORTFOLIO:		Cllr Ken Moss - Education, Leisure & Arts	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Craig Haraben (Acting Head of Community Services)	
TITLE OF REPORT:		Rhyddings Park Heritage Lottery Bid	
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	No	Not applicable	
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of progress in relation to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Parks for People funding bid relating to Rhyddings Park in Oswaldtwistle.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet continues to support the refurbishment and improvement of Rhyddings Park as outlined in the report (“the Project”) and welcomes receipt of the Heritage Lottery Funding.
- 2.2 Cabinet agrees to the Council being accountable body in respect of the Project and in accordance with the HLF’s terms and conditions in connection with the Project
- 2.3 Cabinet delegates authority to the Acting Head of Community Services to take all reasonable steps to implement and complete the Project, including entering into the necessary agreement with the HLF, entering into any necessary agreement with Newground Together, engaging consultants and contractors as required to deliver the Project and obtaining all necessary permissions and consents.
- 2.4 That Cabinet requests that it receives a further report in due course for its consideration and approval in respect of the proposed terms of the lease to the Friends of Rhyddings Park of the Coach House in Rhyddings Park and the proposed arrangements for the management and operation of the Coach House.

3. Reasons for Recommendations and Background

- 3.1 In 2012 the Parks & Cemetery Service started working with the Friends of Rhyddings Park to explore the possibility of applying for Parks for People funding administered via the HLF.
- 3.2 The outcome of a consultation with the Friends of (FO) Rhyddings Park showed that local residents would like to see the refurbishment of park facilities, the re-building of the coach house to provide a community base within the Park and the walled garden area refurbished and brought back into use as a community food growing area. This way forward was also supported by local schools and GP surgeries who returned the consultation document.
- 3.3 In addition to the refurbishment work there was a desire to have staff in place for two years after construction work had been completed to encourage participation and develop the audience of people who use the Park, including engaging with hard to reach groups. After examining the criteria for Parks for People funding it was clear that funding would be available for both the capital and revenue elements of this project.
- 3.4 Enquiries were made with the HLF and their preferred way forward was for the Council to work with a partner organisation who had the appropriate skills and abilities to enable a first class project to be delivered.
- 3.5 Newground Together (formerly Groundwork Pennine Lancashire) is a 'not for profit' organisation and registered charity which has expertise in green space improvement projects and audience development.
- 3.6 Cabinet agreed on 3 December 2013 for the Council to work with Newground Together to secure Parks for People funding for Rhyddings Park in Oswaldtwistle at no cost to the Council. This is because the mechanism used by the HLF allowed Newground Together to claim any fees directly from the HLF.
- 3.7 In January 2016 the Council received the fantastic news that the Parks for People funding bid relating to Rhyddings Park in Oswaldtwistle had been successful. The project had been allocated £1,461,900 for the delivery stage of the project by the HLF. The total value of the project including in-kind funding and volunteer work is £2 Million.
- 3.8 The funding secured from the HLF will allow for:
- The restoration of the Coach House as a community venue;
 - Returning the derelict walled garden to its traditional use of food growing, including the construction of Victorian style greenhouses;
 - Working with Bootstrap Enterprises to develop a social enterprise based in the restored former Coach House, generating income for the park from meeting rooms, a cafe and a training kitchen;
 - Creating a performance space area and develop a programme of community arts working with Hyndburn Arts at the nearby Civic Arts Theatre;

- Establishing a training and volunteering programme linked to park management, community engagement and health promotion;
- Providing education resources and opportunities for local schools;
- Developing programmes of guided walks and family fun activities.

3.9 As Newground Together were co-applicant with the Council in relation to the successful HLF Stage 2 bid, the Council intends to continue to work in partnership with Newground Together to implement and complete the Project. Newground Together will jointly act as project manager with the Council for the duration of the Project and will employ two HLF funded staff to facilitate audience development and improved horticultural skills within Rhyddings Park.

3.10 During the Stage 2 application process it was envisaged that Newground Together would act as accountable body for the Project. However due to legal concerns about privity of contract with contactors, consultants and suppliers working in Rhyddings Park and clarification from HLF that they would look to claw back any funding for non-compliance from the Council, it was decided that the Council would be best served talking on the responsibility of accountable body.

3.11 The delivery stage work will commence on site once all permissions have been finalised and secured.

4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 Do not continue with the delivery stage of Parks for People HLF funding and try and undertake improvements to Rhyddings Park via a piece meal approach. This is not recommended as grant funding has now been secured and this work can be undertaken as one project over the next two years.

5. Consultations

5.1 FO Rhyddings Park, local residents, local councillors, schools, GP surgeries, Corporate Property, Legal Services and Parks & Cemetery service have been consulted in relation to this project.

6. Implications

<p>Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)</p>	<p>On-going maintenance will be contained within existing parks & cemetery service budgets. Match funding of ten percent is required to draw down HLF project funding.</p> <p>External funding bodies have agreed to supply some of the required match funding, in addition to the Council's contribution of £100,000 capital funding towards this project. There is still some unsecured match funding relating to the Project with a value of £14,500.</p>
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	<p>However, suitable external funding bodies have been identified and officers are hopeful that they will be able to secure the additional match funding required. If not the Council has agreed to provide the additional £14,500 to cover any short fall.</p> <p>There is an element of contingency funding in the project budget. There is usually no need to match fund this element and this has been verbally confirmed by HLF staff at the permission to start meeting. However there is a small risk that should the HLF change its rules that match funding would need to be found for this element of funding.</p>
<p>Legal and human rights implications</p>	<p>The Council will need to enter into an agreement with HLF on their standard terms and conditions. The Council will then become the accountable body in respect of the grant funding. The Council will be accountable to the HLF for any misspending of the grant funds and may be asked to repay some or all of the grant funding in the event of sales or changes of use of the Park or Coach House within a specified period. These are the HLF's standard terms and they are not negotiable.</p> <p>It is likely the HLF will require the Council to agree to a restriction being registered against its title to the Park. This will require the park to be used for the purposes of the project for a specified period of time, which is usually 20 years.</p>
<p>Assessment of risk</p>	<p>The Council will act as co-project manager and accountable body for the scheme. The Council will use its contract procedure rules to engage all consultants and contactors to undertake the refurbishment work. This should ensure value for money and privity of contract.</p> <p>All design work has been undertaken by suitably qualified designers and projects managers. As such all work should meet required standards.</p>

	Potential claw back of funding for non-compliance from HLF.
Equality and diversity implications	A Customer First Analysis is attached

7. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:**
List of Background Papers

7.1 Cabinet report dated 3 December 2013 titled Rhyddings Park Heritage Lottery Bid

8. **Freedom of Information**

8.1 The report does not contain exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and all information can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.