

AGENDA ITEM 10

REPORT TO:	Cabinet		
DATE:	03 December 2013		
PORTFOLIO:	Cllr Ken Moss - Education, Leisure & Arts		
REPORT AUTHOR:	Craig Haraben (Head of Parks & Cemeteries)		
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 the progress in relation to the Parks for People funding bid being submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for Rhyddings Park in Oswaldtwistle.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet supports the proposal for the refurbishment and improvement of Rhyddings Park as outlined in the report (“the Project”)
- 2.2 Cabinet agrees to the Council being joint applicant with Newground Together in respect of the proposed stage 2 application for Parks for People Heritage Lottery funding of £ 1,461,000 in accordance with the HLF’s terms and conditions in connection with the Project
- 2.3 Cabinet notes the proposal to appoint Newground Together as project manager for the Project in the event of the funding bid being successful, as set out in paragraph 3.10 of the report
- 2.4 Cabinet agrees in principle to allocate £50 000 to the Project from the Council’s 2015/16 capital programme as match funding , subject to approval of the Council’s budget for 2015/16
- 2.5 Cabinet gives delegated authority to the Head of Parks & Cemeteries to take all reasonable steps to progress the stage 2 funding bid for the Project, including obtaining all necessary permissions and consents;

2.6 Cabinet requests a further report be presented to Cabinet once the outcome of the Stage 2 funding bid is known.

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 a member of staff in place for three 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) are a 'not for profit' organisation and registered charity who have expertise in green space improvement projects and audience development.

3.6 Newground Together offered to undertake the work necessary to secure Stage 1 Parks for People funding at no cost to the Council. This is because the mechanism used by the HLF allows any fees to be claimed directly from the HLF at the Stage 2 part of the funding process.

3.7 In January 2014 the Council received the news that the Stage 1 Parks for People bid relating to Rhyddings Park in Oswaldtwistle had been successful. Stage 1 is the competitive stage of the bidding process and as such the HLF has pre-allocated £1,461,900 for the delivery stage of the grant.

3.8 To secure this delivery phase funding, a Stage 2 Parks for People application will need to be completed. Newground Together will continue to undertake necessary work along with Parks Staff to secure Stage 2 funding, however, at Stage 2 of the bidding process the land owner also needs to be an applicant for the funding. As such to secure the £1,461,900 the Council will need to be a joint applicant with Newground Together for the Stage 2 funding application for the Project.

- 3.9 It is anticipated that the Stage 2 funding bid will be submitted at the end of February 2015, with the outcome known during August 2015.
- 3.10 Should the Stage 2 funding bid be successful, it is proposed that the Council appoints Newground Together to act as project manager for the delivery phase of the Project. This will require the Council to waive the tendering requirement in its Contract Procedure Rules but this appears to be a sensible approach given Newground Together's familiarity with the project.

4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Do not apply for Parks for People HLF funding and try and undertake improvements to Rhyddings Park via a piece meal approach. This has been rejected as the size of grant available via the Parks for People part of the HLF fund means that all works required in the park could be undertaken as one project.

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>Applications are being submitted to external funders for some of this match funding, however it is anticipated that the Council will need to provide £50,000 capital funding towards this project.</p>
<p>Legal and human rights implications</p>	<p>If the bid is successful the Council will need to enter into an agreement with HLF on their standard terms and conditions.</p> <p>It is likely the HLF will require the Council to agree to a restriction being registered against its title to the Park.</p> <p>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>

Assessment of risk	There is a risk that Stage 2 funding will not be secured, but this is minimised by engaging specialists for necessary areas of work.
Equality and diversity implications	<p>A customer first analysis will be undertaken as part of a subsequent report, should the Stage 2 funding bid be successful.</p> <p>The recommendations of this report do not in themselves have equality implications.</p>

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

7.1 A copy of the [Stage 1 funding paperwork is](#) available as background information

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.