



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Heritage Lottery Fund – Approval to proceed with a Stage 1 Application for the restoration of the City Cemetery
Date:	25 th April 2014
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks & Leisure
Contact Officers:	Sinead Grimes, Programme Manager, Ext: 6203

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek approval from Members to submit a Stage 1 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) under its <i>'Parks & People Programme'</i> for the restoration of the City Cemetery.
2.0	Relevant Background Information
2.1	Members will be aware of a recent successful application by the Council to the HLF's Heritage Grant programme for the restoration of the Tropical Ravine in Botanic Gardens which secured funding of £2.32m. HLF acknowledged the quality of this application and reiterated its wish to receive further applications from the Council - particularly under its <i>'Parks for People'</i> programme which has funded many local authority projects across the UK including projects in Lisburn, Larne, Derry and Armagh.
3.0	Key Issues
3.1	The <i>'Parks for People'</i> programme provides grants from £100,000 up to £5 million. Projects must contribute to a range of outcomes for heritage, people and communities, through physical development and programming activities. The programme, which previously only funded projects in parks, has recently been expanded to include cemeteries.
3.2	The Council, through the Parks & Leisure Department, and in consultation with the HLF, identified 3 potential suitable sites for the Parks for People programme - City Cemetery; Alexandra Park and Victoria Park. However following feedback from visits with the HLF to each site it is apparent that, whilst all three have potential, the City Cemetery currently presents the greatest opportunity. Due to the significance of the Cemetery, its design, heritage features and current condition, and widespread public interest in the site and its history, a City Cemetery project would appear to meet the following key strategic factors cited by HLF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be a definable heritage in design and history; • There should be a 'heritage need' i.e. definable actions which will put the heritage in better condition; and • There should be a community/public appetite for the project.
3.3	Members will be aware that the City Cemetery is currently an Emerging Project at Stage 1 on the Capital Programme under the wider Falls Park Masterplan project.
3.4	It is proposed that the Council applies to HLF for a grant under the <i>'Parks for People'</i> programme for a project based at City Cemetery, taking into account the context of the wider Falls Park Masterplan, and with a view to developing a longer term plan for further applications for projects in other areas of

	<p>the city. Members are asked to note that an application to <i>'Parks for People'</i> programme would follow a similar route to the Tropical Ravine Heritage grant application – that is a 2 stage process with a maximum of 24 months between the first round and final submission, and with the opportunity to apply for a development grant to fund the intervening planning work. The next submission deadline for Parks for People Stage 1 is 31 August with a decision anticipated in December 2014. The final level of grant to be requested will be identified during the development of a first round application. The initial costs for the development of the first submission will be funded out of the Feasibility Fund.</p>
3.5	<p>If an application is successful the principal cost to the Council would be in the form of a 'partnership contribution'. For grants of £1 million or more the HLF requires a minimum 10% contribution, however it is likely that a higher level would be expected from the Council. This would be determined through discussion with HLF. Members are asked to note that this does not constitute a final decision to invest in this project and that further information will be brought back to Committee in due course.</p>
4.0	Equality Implications
<p>Emerging equality implications will be considered if the project progresses.</p>	
5.0	Recommendations
<p>Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree to the submission of a Stage 1 application for the restoration of City Cemetery under the HLF's <i>'Parks for People'</i> programme. Members are asked to note that this will be within the context of the wider Falls Park Masterplan which is already an Emerging Project on the Capital Programme. Members are asked to note that this does not constitute a final decision to invest in this project and that further information will be brought back to Committee in due course. Any initial costs for the development of the Stage 1 application will be funded out of the Feasibility Fund • note that officers from Parks & Leisure will also look at the development a longer term plan for further applications for projects in other areas of the city 	