

Title of meeting: Culture, Leisure and Economic Development Decision Meeting

Date of meeting: 8 February 2022

Subject: Reviving Victoria Park - National Lottery Heritage Fund Award

Report by: Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

Wards affected: Charles Dickens

Key decision No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To advise the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development of the National Lottery Heritage Fund ("NLHF") award of funding to the 'Reviving Victoria Park - the people's park in Portsmouth' project and the terms of the grant.

2. Recommendations

The Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development:

- 2.1 **Accepts the grant award of £2,273,000 from NLHF towards delivering the identified works in Victoria Park.**
- 2.2 **Agrees that Portsmouth City Council acts as applicant, accepting the grant offer together with all the terms and conditions of the National Lottery Heritage Fund award. To ensure compliance with all the award criteria obligations including all the grant conditions.**
- 2.3 **Delegates authority to the Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services to manage and deliver the project in line with NLHF requirements.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Parks and Open Spaces Team has been successful in securing £2,273,000 of funding from the National Lottery Heritage Lottery Fund towards the reviving Victoria Park project.



- 3.2 Based on extensive local consultation and support, the project will restore, improve, uncover and celebrate the park's heritage and will create an inclusive, engaging and educational activity hub and greenspace, supported by accessible infrastructure for all to enjoy.
- 3.3 This represents a major achievement for the Parks and Open Spaces Team and Directorate and follows over four years of work to secure NLHF investment to the city's first public park. The council initially secured a First Round Development Grant of £251,000 on 2 December 2019.
- 3.4 The Second Round application to the NLHF was submitted on 25 August 2021. On 3 December 2021 the city council received the Grant Notification Letter with the good news that the council had been successful and awarded £2,273,000 (77% of the total eligible project cost of £2,958,470) towards the reviving Victoria Park project. Further detail is shown in the letter attached as Appendix A.
- 3.5 Members are asked to note the 'Approved Purposes' listed in the grant notification letter and as follows that must be delivered as part of the project:
- Construct a community and volunteer hub building with an outdoor covered space, install a green roof, solar panels and air-source heat pump
 - Create a new children's play area, meeting the needs of both disabled and non-disabled children. Construct an outdoor event space with appropriate access and services
 - Renovate the aviary, restore the Grade-II listed Centenary Fountain and naval monuments. Repair park infrastructure, including paths and benches
 - Reinststate the central tree-lined avenue and graduated planting scheme in the northeast section. Introduce natural flood management measures along the southern route, improve ecological habitats for wildlife along the northern and southern boundaries and introduce wildflower areas
 - Install welcome panels at main entrances and interpretation panels across the site, along with rubbing panels, animal sculptures and display area for community artworks.
 - Deliver the activity plan as submitted at application, including offering 120 volunteering opportunities, three work experience placements for people with learning difficulties and an apprenticeship
 - Produce an evaluation report for the project and install permanent acknowledgement of the grant at the site.
- 3.6 The project (Approved Purposes) must be completed by 31 March 2026. The terms of the NLHF grant will last 20 years from the Project Completion Date.



3.7 The grant will be paid subject to the council complying with the NLHF's standard terms of grant and additional grant conditions as outlined in Appendix B.

The standard terms of grant cover:

- Achieving the Approved Purposes
- Project monitoring
- Procurement
- Property
- Publicity and acknowledgement
- Digital outputs
- Grant payment and repayment
- General terms

The additional grant conditions cover:

- Local Authority Grantee (acceptance of the grant)
- Restriction on Title
- Letting Clause

3.8 A summary of the current funding position for the 'Reviving Victoria Park - the people's park in Portsmouth' project is summarised as follows:

Source of Funding	Description	Value (£)
Portsmouth City Council	Capital programme (corporate reserves)	227,000
Other public sector	Charles Dickens and St Thomas ward CIL, green energy investment, section 106 contributions	123,050
Private donation - Trusts/Charities/Foundations	Trees for Cities	22,000
Increased management and maintenance costs	£15,000 for 5 years	75,000
Volunteer time	Volunteer time contribution	238,420
NLHF Grant		2,273,000
Total Project Income		2,958,470

4 Reasons for recommendations

4.1 NLHF will not give permission to start the project unless the applicant, Portsmouth City Council, has accepted all the terms and conditions set out by NLHF outlined above and has the necessary authority from the Cabinet Member as outlined in the schedule of the Additional Grant Conditions which forms part of the award of grant letter from the NLHF dated 3 December 2021.



- 4.2 NLHF requires that the applicant Portsmouth City Council, the authority acting as accountable body, is to submit the minute recording the decision of the Council to authorise acceptance of the terms of the grant. This is effectively a minute of the Council's approval of recommendations and that approval should follow a full consideration of all the standard terms of the grant offer, including the additional grant conditions.
- 4.3 The NLHF require formal documentation of the council's decision within 28 days of the date of the Grant Notification Letter. Permission has been sought from the NLHF that the city council may align this with the scheduled meeting cycle and provided following the 8 February 2022 Cabinet Member Decision meeting.
- 5. Integrated impact assessment**
- 5.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment report is attached in Appendix C.
- 6. Legal implications**
- 6.1 The Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development has responsibility within their portfolio for "*Allotments, parks and open spaces, including operational management of agricultural/grazing land*" (Cabinet portfolio responsibilities, Portsmouth City Council Constitution). Victoria Park is owned and operated by the Council and falls within that remit. Accordingly, the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development has power, under the executive arrangements in the Council's Constitution, to approve the recommendations in this report.
- 6.2 The delegation to the Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services is appropriate as that officer retains responsibility under Part 2, Section 5B of the Constitution "to manage the parks and open spaces" which are the responsibility of the Council.
- 6.3 The Heritage Lottery Fund award letter is accompanied by the standard terms and additional grant conditions. These are attached to the cabinet report as Appendix A and B. The Council will be required to comply with the conditions of the grant to receive the funding. The terms and conditions do not appear particularly onerous considering the quantum and source of funds.
- 6.4 As this is grant funding, the Council is required to ensure that the grant is compatible with state aid and subsidy control law and the project team will need to ensure that it monitors compliance and seeks advice from the City Solicitor where necessary.

7. Director of Finance's comments

7.1 The financial information is contained within the body of the report. Approval of the recommendations will enable the Delivery Phase of the Victoria Park Project to proceed.

.....
Signed by:

Stephen Baily
Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

Appendices:

- Appendix A - NLHF Grant Notification Letter
- Appendix B - Standard Terms of Grant and Additional Grant Conditions
- Appendix C - Integrated Impact Assessment

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

.....
Signed by:

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development