

Castle, Hyson Green & Arboretum and Radford Area Committee – 11 March 2020

Title of paper:	Future Parks Accelerator (FPA) Project		
Director/ Corporate Director:	Dave Halstead, Director, Neighbourhood Services		Wards affected: Castle Hyson Green & Arboretum Radford
	Andy Vaughan, Corporate Director, Commercial & Operations		
Report author and contact details:	James Tilford, Future Parks Accelerator Project Manager, 0115 91 52749		
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Adrienne Kelly, Future Parks Accelerator Programme Manager Christine Duckworth, Future Parks Accelerator Officer		
Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:			
Nottingham People			<input type="checkbox"/>
Living in Nottingham			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Growing Nottingham			<input type="checkbox"/>
Respect for Nottingham			<input type="checkbox"/>
Serving Nottingham Better			<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):			
<p>Project Summary</p> <p>Nottingham City Council Parks and Open Spaces team has secured funding through the Future Parks Accelerator Fund (FPA). This is a national project, to find new and innovative ways to manage and fund parks and open spaces. The project is funded by the National Heritage Lottery, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and supported by the National Trust.</p> <p>The four key areas for development are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial opportunities Community engagement and volunteer programme Charitable foundation Future Governance <p>This report tables the projects aims and objectives and explains how the FPA team will be working with the Park service, partners, local communities and individuals over the life of the project. The project will deliver a 25 year strategy for Parks and Open Spaces which will identify key areas where opportunities to change how we deliver our parks and open spaces will be addressed.</p> <p>As part of the consultation, the FPA team are looking at consulting with as many citizens as possible and ask that the Area Committees offer their help and support when consultation events and activities are taking place within their Wards.</p>			
Recommendation:			
1	That the Committee note the aims and objectives of the Future Parks Accelerator Project and engage with and support consultation activities when taking place in their Wards		

1 Reasons for recommendation

- 1.1 To Introduce and inform Area Committees about the Future Parks Accelerator Project and the consultation programme which is part of the project.

2 Background (including outcomes of consultation)

2.1 Nottingham's Priorities

As part of this project, Nottingham is focussing on the following areas, which will contribute to an ambitious 25-year strategy for the City's parks and open spaces.

- Evaluating our current volunteer offer, with a view to developing a wider range of volunteer opportunities and better support for volunteers of parks and open spaces.
- Investigating opportunities so that citizens can be more involved in how their parks are developed and managed.
- Exploring new ways to generate income to support our parks and open spaces longer term.

2.2 Why is this important?

Nottingham has a remarkable amount of accessible and award winning parks and open spaces, ranging from large historic parks and allotments, down to small local open spaces and everything in between.

Parks provide vital benefits and opportunities for people, communities and the environment. Almost without knowing it, these spaces are central to our everyday lives, whether that is through being a place where we can socialise with friends, take part in local nature trails, play sport, use the play / recreational areas or take the dog for a walk. Parks also encourage, biodiversity and wildlife, and promote mental and physical wellbeing.

With increasing pressures on local government funding we are now having to think of new ways to make sure our parks and open spaces can continue to be the best they can be.

2.3 How you can help

We want to ensure that we have an in-depth understanding of what our residents want and need from their parks and open spaces now and in the future and therefore, we want to receive feedback from everyone.

We have developed a citizen survey which can be accessed online (details are in March edition of the Arrow). The questionnaire is available for completion until 31 May 2020 for citizens to tell us their thoughts and ideas about our parks and open spaces.

- 2.4 Consultation will be going out in the March edition of the Arrow. We are asking citizens to take part and raise awareness through local community groups.
- 2.5 Further details about the project is attached as Appendix 1.

3 Other options considered in making recommendations

- 3.1 This is an externally funded project which has specific outputs and milestones which the FPA team will meet.

- 4 Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)**
 - 4.1 To follow.
- 5 Legal and Procurement colleague comments (including risk management issues, and legal, Crime and Disorder Act and procurement implications)**
 - 5.1 n/a
- 6 Strategic Assets & Property colleague comments (for decision relating to all property assets and associated infrastructure) (Area Committee reports only)**
 - 6.1 n/a
- 7 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**
 - 7.1 An EIA is not required because there is no proposal for new or changing policies/services/functions or financial decisions that would have a major impact on services.
- 8 List of background papers other than published works or those disclosing confidential or exempt information**
 - 8.1 None
- 9 Published documents referred to in compiling this report**
 - 9.1 None