

**EXECUTIVE BOARD – 18 NOVEMBER 2014**

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|--|--|--|---|
| <b>Subject:</b>  | Waste Recycling Environmental Network (WREN)/Fomento de Construcciones Contratas (FCC) Building Communities Fund Programme priority  |  |   |
| <b>Corporate Director</b>  | John Kelly, Corporate Director for Community Services  |  |   |
| <b>Portfolio Holder(s):</b>  | Councillor Dave Trimble, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture  |  |   |
| <b>Report author and contact details:</b>  | Eddie Curry, Head of Parks and Open Spaces<br>Email: <a href="mailto:eddie.curry@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">eddie.curry@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a><br>Tel: 0115 8764982                                     |  |   |
| <b>Key Decision</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  | <b>Subject to call-in</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <b>Reasons:</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £1,000,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision | <input type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital |   |
| Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  |  |   |
| <b>Total value of the decision:</b> £1,152,000   |  |  |   |
| <b>Wards affected:</b><br>Bulwell Hall, Bulwell Forest, Bilborough, Leen Valley, Bestwood, Radford and Park, Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey, Arboretum, Bridge and St Ann's  | <b>Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s):</b> 16 October 2014  |  |   |
| <b>Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:</b>   |  |  |   |
| Cutting unemployment by a quarter  |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Cut crime and anti-social behaviour  |  |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                                 |
| Ensure more school leavers get a job, training or further education than any other City  |  |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                                 |
| Your neighbourhood as clean as the City Centre   |  |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                                 |
| Help keep your energy bills down   |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Good access to public transport  |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Nottingham has a good mix of housing   |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Nottingham is a good place to do business, invest and create jobs  |  |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                                 |
| Nottingham offers a wide range of leisure activities, parks and sporting events  |  |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                                 |
| Support early intervention activities  |  |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                                 |
| Deliver effective, value for money services to our citizens  |  |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                                 |
| <b>Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):</b><br>This report provides a summary of the WREN/FCC Building Communities Fund Programme priority projects and seeks approval to accept the external funding from the Programme.   |  |  |   |
| <b>Exempt information:</b><br>None   |  |  |   |
| <b>Recommendation(s):</b>  |  |  |   |
| <b>1</b> Accept the WREN/FCC Building Communities Fund Programme funding of £750,000 and approve the priority projects detailed in Appendix 1.   |  |  |   |
| <b>2</b> Delegate authority to the Director of Sport, Culture and Parks to prepare and submit individual bids to draw down the WREN/FCC funding for each of the 11 priority projects.  |  |  |   |
| <b>3</b> Subject to the confirmation of each of the priority projects, delegate authority to the Director of Sport, Culture and Parks to develop working designs and go out to tender and, subject to tenders being within the available financial envelope as indicated in section 4, to enter into contracts relating to the delivery of the 11 priority projects. |  |  |   |
| <b>4</b> Amend the capital programme to reflect the expenditure detailed in section 4.   |  |  |   |
| <b>5</b> Approve the revenue third party contributions and potential capital match funding as detailed in section 4.   |  |  |   |

## **1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 To secure the funding and agree the delivery of the projects identified within the programme. A Programme Board has already been established and will ensure that all the appropriate governance and delegated authorities are approved in advance of submitting the WREN/FCC funding applications.
- 1.2 All the projects identified in Appendix 1 have been developed in partnership with local community groups and in consultation with ward councillors. The opportunity to drive these improvements forward by utilising the WREN/FCC funding provides a major opportunity to improve local facilities and improve the quality of life for our communities

## **2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

- 2.1 WREN was established in 1997 and is a company limited by guarantee and a non-profit making Environmental Body (EB) registered to fund projects which are eligible under the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF). WREN receives the majority of its funding from the landfill tax levied by FCC Environment (formerly Waste Recycling Group).
  - 2.2 In February 2012 the WREN Board of Directors agreed to commit up to £6 million of funding over a three year period to create a new Building Communities Programme in England. The programme will be aimed specifically at funding for community amenity projects eligible under Objective D<sup>1</sup> of the LCF which can deliver lasting community benefits.
  - 2.3 The primary intent of Objective D of the LCF is to facilitate the protection of the environment by the provision, maintenance or improvement of a public park or amenity. The site where the work takes place must be open and accessible to the general public.
  - 2.4 The aim of the new Building Communities Programme is to:
    - help people to make their community areas better places to live in, now and in the future;
    - by consulting with them and identifying, financing and delivering priority amenity projects that will enhance their overall quality of life;
    - bring about real improvements to communities and to the lives of people most in need;
    - WREN will aim to target up to nine disadvantaged community areas in England, situated within a 10 mile radius of an eligible landfill site.
  - 2.5 Of the £6m budget allocated for this programme an allocation of £750K has been ring fenced to fund the capital works on selected amenity projects in Nottingham over a three year period from 2013 to the end of 2015.
  - 2.6 In order to meet these funding deadlines the Parks team has consulted with the neighbourhood team and identified a range of existing strategic and local priority projects that all have local support and in part have well developed plans, match funding and evidence of need clearly identified. In fact the majority of the identified projects all have an essential readiness factor that will enable the Parks Team to move quickly and draw down the funding from WREN/FCC. Appendix 1 includes a full summary of all the priority projects.
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- 2.7 As part of the delivery of these projects the parks team will look to provide as many projects as possible that can help provide training and or apprentice placement opportunities.
- 2.8 In order to ensure that the project is delivered on time, on budget and inline with both WREN/FCC and other match funding requirements it is required that a small programme board be established. Appendix 2 contains the Terms of Reference for the Board.

### **3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Not accepting the funding was rejected as it would mean that the Council cannot deliver the projects and will not be able to improve the quality of the local amenities.

### **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)**

- 4.1 The cost of the projects proposed in this report is £1,069,500.
- 4.2 In order to attract the WREN funding the City Council has had to initially give 11%, amounting to £82,500, of the allocation to WREN. This will be met as follows:

|                                | £                    |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Parks revenue funding          | 6,600                |
| Area capital funding           | 62,700               |
| <u>Other – to be confirmed</u> | <u>13,200</u>        |
|                                | <b><u>82,500</u></b> |

- 4.3 The cost of the entire scheme (including the 11% third party payments) is proposed to be met as follows:

|                       | £                |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| WREN                  | 750,000          |
| English Cricket Board | 150,000          |
| Section 106 funding   | 50,000           |
| Ridgeway Adv Centre   | 30,000           |
| Radford & Park ward   | 84,500           |
| Area capital          | 82,500           |
|                       | <b>1,152,000</b> |

- 4.4 There are no direct ongoing revenue implications stemming from these proposals and any ongoing maintenance costs will be met from existing provisions in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

### **5 MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)**

#### **5.1 Legal**

As with all funding of this nature it will be provided subject to various terms and conditions. In accepting the funding the Council will need to satisfy itself that it is able and willing to adhere to these terms and conditions.

In all other regards the proposals raise no significant legal issues and are supported.

## 5.2 Crime and Disorder

The projects will help to improve the security of buildings and to improve the visual appearance of the parks. In addition the new facilities will help to provide new training opportunities and diversionary sporting activities which will all help to provide positive opportunities for young people to engage in new activities, etc. The visual improvement to the park will also help to design out areas that are currently subject to vandalism by providing more open and welcoming spaces and intern helping to remove the general the fear of crime and disorder within some of the parks.

## 5.3 Neighbourhood Management

These projects have been prioritized through discussions with local ward Councillors, citizens and partners. Many of them have been identified as ward based priorities and will make a big difference to providing local facilities of a high standard for communities to come together and enjoy.

## **6 SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS**

6.1 Social Value is central to the subject matter of this project. The proposals or use of the Lottery funding, if awarded, include:

- encouraging healthy lifestyles and meeting community needs through aesthetic improvements, activities and events;
- improvement of the local environment by resolving the lake silting problem;
- creating work placement and training opportunities for local people in the construction phase of the project.

6.2 These objectives will be integral considerations in any procurement processes and contracts awarded as a result of the funding.

## **7 REGARD TO THE NHS CONSTITUTION**

7.1 The projects will help to improve the general facilities within the parks, including paths and seating along with general aesthetic improvements that increase bio-diversity and improve the natural environment of the parks and open spaces. These improvements will encourage more people to participate in low level physical activity. Many of the projects will help support greater participation and will help the park service to target current non users and encourage people who are not currently active to participate in activities such as a walk around or through the parks and/or participate in sport, conservation, food growing and recreational activities.

7.2 This is in line with the 'Natural Solutions to Tackling Health Inequalities' report which highlights the evidence of the benefits of green spaces to health and wellbeing outcomes, and the inequalities in use of, and access to, natural environments<sup>2</sup>. These inequalities contribute to health inequalities.

7.3 The projects will support the Nature and Health work that is being developed with Public Health to improve access to and use of green space, in order to improve health equity.

7.4 Principles 4 and 6 of the NHS constitution apply as follows:

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<sup>2</sup> Natural solutions for tackling health inequalities Jessica Allen and Reuben Balfour UCL Institute of Health Equity October 2014

- Principle 6 - the NHS is committed to providing best value for taxpayers' money and the most effective, fair and sustainable use of finite resources. Public funds for healthcare will be devoted solely to the benefit of the people that the NHS serves;
- Principle 4 - the NHS aspires to put patients at the heart of everything it does. It should support individuals to promote and manage their own health. NHS services must reflect, and should be co-ordinated around and tailored to, the needs and preferences of patients, their families and their carers. Patients, with their families and carers, where appropriate, will be involved in and consulted on all decisions about their care and treatment. The NHS will actively encourage feedback from the public, patients and staff, welcome it and use it to improve its services.

## 8 **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)**

Has the equality impact been assessed?

- (a) not needed (report does not contain proposals for new or changing policies, services or functions, financial decisions or decisions about implementation of policies development outside the Council)
- (b) No
- (c) Yes – Equality Impact Assessment attached

An EIA has been updated and is attached in Appendix 3.

This project has the potential to provide a number of opportunities to promote equality, for example, by making facilities more accessible; through diverse representation on the project steering group; by promoting the participation and involvement of service users and the wider community in the development of the park; and through the consideration of equality issues in the design and delivery stages of the project.

## 9 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN WRITING THIS REPORT (NOT INCLUDING PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS OR CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION)**

9.1 None

## 10 **PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT**

10.1 None

## 11 **OTHER COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE PROVIDED INPUT**

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