

Markeaton Park Heritage Lottery Fund Project

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Derby City Council has secured a £142,500 Stage 1 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to prepare plans for the restoration of Markeaton Park as part of the 'Parks for People' programme.

The work will involve:

- preparation of designs for the restoration and improvements to the historic gardens, the Orangery, stable block and craft village, the lake and ponds, footpaths and Mundy Play Centre.
- preparation of an Activity Plan that sets out what activities will be delivered such as learning about the park's heritage, volunteering and training and opportunities for how more people can get involved in using and managing the park.

- 1.2 Markeaton Park remains the most popular park in Derby, with over a million visitors each year. However the quality of the landscape and range of facilities and recreational opportunities has declined over the years. This project seeks to arrest the slow decline and to undertake restoration and improvement work that will raise the quality of the park and increase the numbers of visitors using the park and the quality of the visitor's experience.

- 1.3 The overarching objective of the HLF project is to maintain, improve and enhance Markeaton Park as the premier park in Derby and as one of the major visitor destination parks in the East Midlands.

This will be supported through the following key restoration objectives:

1. Preserve and conserve historic elements of the parkland
2. Retain, repair and restore the historical parkland landscape, buildings, structures and features including:
 - Built core, including remaining historic buildings and gardens
 - Surrounding parkland
 - Water features
 - Tree and woodland planting
 - Historic views of parkland from the site of Markeaton Hall
3. Improve accessibility

- to historic elements of the park, including restoration of historic routes
 - to improve circulation and access to encourage wider exploration and use of the park
4. Interpret the historical elements of the park using a variety of techniques to help people understand and appreciate how the park and its uses have developed and changed over time
 5. To utilise the historic landscape as a framework within which current and future uses and facilities can be provided and set so as to minimise impact on the historic features
 6. Maintain and enhance the wide range of recreational facilities on offer for all ages, to encourage increased use
 7. Develop and increase community involvement in the development, management, maintenance and use of the park
- 1.4 A draft outline masterplan has been prepared for the park which indicates the scope of the planned work. The proposals have been prepared in response to the problems and opportunities identified through public consultation and engagement, an assessment of the quality and condition of the park's physical, natural and historical characteristics and an analysis of how the park is currently used.
- The masterplan has been used to identify those elements that are considered most appropriate to funding by the HLF and which offer greatest value for money in restoring the historic parkland and maximising visitor attraction and use and involvement in the park.
- 1.5 Work has commenced on the project development phase of the project. It is planned to submit a Stage 2 application to the HLF/Big Lottery in August 2012 for funding of up to £2.4 million towards total project costs of £3.0 million to implement the designs and restoration proposals.
- 1.6 A full planning application will be submitted in late Spring 2012.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the contents of the report
- 2.2 To advise on what information and level of involvement CAAC would like to receive prior to the submission of the planning application.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure that Conservation Area Advisory Committee are kept

informed of the project and have the opportunity to make comments.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The development stage of the project involves considerable amount of work to develop both capital proposals and prepare an action plan that will increase use of the park. This will include extensive on going public consultation that will inform the preparation of the detail proposals.
- 4.2 A Markeaton Park Project Co-ordinator has been appointed who will co-ordinate the various aspects of the project. The co-ordinator will be supported by other in house staff and a number of specialist consultants appointed to undertake specific parts of the project.
- 4.3 A key output of Stage 2 will be the preparation of a Conservation Management Plan for the whole park. This will be undertaken by a specialist historic landscape consultant to be appointed.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 The outline restoration masterplan has been developed to take on board the Council's priorities for Markeaton Park that are eligible for HLF funding, results of the public consultation and discussions held with HLF regarding their priorities and likely level of funding. As part of this process various options were considered.
- 5.2 The HLF has awarded a grant to enable the project to be developed further and during this period a range of detailed options will be looked at while drawing up detail proposals. There is some flexibility to amend the outline proposals and include other elements subject to keeping the project within the overall estimated budget.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Name Andrew Morgan 01332 641571 e-mail andrew.morgan@derby.gov.uk Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Outline Restoration Masterplan Appendix 3 – Historic Core Restoration Proposals

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 The project needs to be developed within the overall project budget of approximately £3.0 million
- 1.2 The funding for delivery is not guaranteed and is dependant on a successful Stage 2 application to the HLF

Legal

- 2.1 None at this stage

Personnel

- 3.1 None at this stage

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 The development stage will include preparation of an equality impact assessment of the project.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None at this stage

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None at this stage

Asset Management

- 7.1 None

Risk Management

- 8.1 The project is subject to a risk assessment and management as part of the project management arrangements

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

9.1 The proposals contribute to the following Council key outcomes:

- make us proud of our neighbourhoods
- create a 21st Century city centre
- lead Derby towards a better environment
- help us all to be healthy, active and independent
- give you excellent services and value for money

providing greater opportunities for people to participate in decisions about the area in which they live