

NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND – NEWARK CASTLE APPLICATION

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise Members of a planned bid for funding to the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NLHF) for the Newark Castle Gatehouse Project and to request approval to submit the application at the next available opportunity , 29 November 2021.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 Earlier this year, Newark’s successful bid to the Towns Fund presented an opportunity to reinstate the Newark Gatehouse project. £2.6million Towns Funding is allocated to the Gatehouse project and Members have previously approved a capital allocation of £1million, however there is still a requirement for further match funding in the region of £1million. Having previously explored a number of funding options before pausing the project in 2019, the NLHF offers the best opportunity for match funding.
- 2.2 During the pandemic, the NLHF closed their usual funding streams in order to deliver emergency funding to buildings and organisations most at risk. Prior to re-opening their funding programmes in 2021, they significantly revised their priorities (<https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/outcomes>). Their focus in the immediate aftermath of COVID is people-centric, with a mandatory outcome where ‘a wider range of people will be involved in heritage’ and NSDC officers were advised by the senior team at NLHF that it would not now be appropriate to re-submit the previous application. A specialist consultant has been appointed to re-visit the project in light of these new funding requirements and develop a fresh approach that will both align with the needs of the Towns Fund and achieve the outcomes required of the NLHF.
- 2.3 The table at 2.5 below, details the three stage process and minimum timescales for funding via the NLHF. For projects in their highest funding bracket (£250,000 - £5million), organisations must first submit an Expression of Interest. A project must already be well-developed to be accepted and only organisations who can clearly demonstrate a well-defined, costed and outcome-driven project will be invited to apply for stage 1 funding. A successful stage 1 application will release development funding to further refine and plan the project with specialist consultants, working closely with the NLHF in preparation for a stage 2 application, with a final decision in late 2023. The Towns Fund Business Case and project plan will be informed by this element of the funding accordingly.
- 2.4 NSDC submitted their Expression of Interest in early October and have been formally invited to make a stage 1 application. It is vital that this application can be submitted in November of this year, as the next available opportunity will delay proceedings by a minimum of three months.

2.5 NLHF Process and Proposed Timetable



3.0 Proposals

3.1 The refreshed project re-visits the unique opportunities offered by the Castle Gatehouse project:

- An iconic, flagship destination attraction at the gateway to the town as identified in the Destination Management Plan which will increase footfall and dwell time within the town, benefiting businesses, residents and visitors and boosting the local economy
- An innovative platform for Newark's rich and dynamic history and a unique backdrop for events, adding value to the Cultural Heart of Newark project
- A catalyst for improved social inclusion and civic pride through access to heritage and culture
- A driver for increased social value as a safe, vibrant and inclusive community green space with potential to reinvigorate the early evening local economy
- A flexible space for inspirational education services and community co-creation

3.2 Newark Castle – Building Bridges NLHF application will focus on six of the NLHF's priority outcomes:

- A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (*mandatory outcome*)
- people will have greater wellbeing
- the local area will be a better place to live, work or visit
- the local economy will be boosted
- heritage will be identified and better explained
- people will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions

The funding will develop and deliver inclusive, community co-created interpretation of the new galleries and spaces inside the Castle Gatehouse visitor attraction, delivering impact and appeal for the tourism market, linking to the National Civil War Centre through joint ticketing and supporting local businesses by moving footfall around the town. To demonstrate our commitment to the NLHF's priorities, we will further develop a plan to improve the Gardens through refreshed landscaping, interpretation and innovative lighting. We will aim to connect local communities and disadvantaged groups to their local

history through participatory activity and events, and will strive to remove physical, economic and social barriers to accessing their heritage. A key aim will be to promote the Historic Gardens as a safe and welcoming green space, using lighting to enhance key architectural features as well as social and heritage significance, elevating the 'after darkness' experience to extend access times and support the early evening economy.

- 3.3 Including the additional activity plans and two new roles funded by NLHF - a Project Development Manager and a Community Engagement & Partnership Development Officer - the total cost of the Gatehouse project is currently costed at £4,753,000. It is proposed that the application to the NLHF is for a total project cost of at least £1,345,500. NSDC must contribute a minimum of 10% of this project cost and it is proposed to contribute £200,000 - funded from the existing capital allocation and split with £20,000 at stage 1 and the remainder at stage 2:

Towns Fund Contribution	£2.6million
NLHF Contribution	£1.15million
NSDC Capital Allocation	£1million, of which £200K is the NLHF match
TOTAL	£4.75million

4.0 Equalities Implications

- 4.1 This project has been widely consulted on and consultation will continue through the development phase if successful. Community co-creation is essential to successful delivery, and the project aims to reduce or remove multiple barriers to access.

5.0 Digital Implications

- 5.1 None.

6.0 Financial Implications - FIN21-22/6807

- 6.1 The current allocation within the capital programme is £4.225m. Please see table below for the funding breakdown:

	Actuals Prior Years	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total Budgets	
Budgets/Actuals	200,450.14	25,000.00	2,993,863.00	1,006,286.86	4,225,600.00	
Funding External						
Towns Fund	0.00	25,000.00	2,575,000.00	0.00	2,600,000.00	
HLF	91,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	91,500.00	
Third Party	5,142.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,142.69	
Capital Receipts	72,362.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	72,362.81	
<i>External to be identified</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>400,000.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>400,000.00</i>	*
NSDC						
NSDC Reserves	31,444.64	0.00	18,863.00	6,286.86	56,594.50	
NSDC Borrowing	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	
Total Funding	200,450.14	25,000.00	2,993,863.00	1,006,286.86	4,225,600.00	

*Included within the budget but funding not secured

- 6.2 Actual secured budgets remaining equates to £3.625m (Total budget of £4.225m less the unsecured funding of £0.400m less spend to date of £0.200m).
- 6.3 The NSDC contribution already included within the funding will be utilised as match funding as part of the bid to NLHF. No additional funding is required from NSDC as a result of this bid.
- 6.4 If the bid to NLHF is successful this will add £1.154m new monies to the pot giving us a total budget remaining of £4.779m (£3.625m + £1.154m) against currently estimated costs of £4.753m, leaving an envelope of £0.026m for planning works.

7.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives

7.1 This project will support the following objectives:

- Deliver inclusive and sustainable economic growth
- Enhance and protect the District's natural environment
- Create vibrant and self-sufficient local communities where residents look out for each other and actively contribute to their local area

8.0 RECOMMENDATION

That Members support the proposed application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund enabling an application to be submitted on 29 November 2021.

Reason for Recommendation

This proposal offers the best opportunity for match funding for the Castle Gatehouse Project, having previously explored numerous alternatives in 2019. Whilst we have a 12 month window to submit our stage 1 application, the timeline of the Towns Fund dictates the timescale required in submitting the NLHF application no later than November 2021.

Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Carys Coulton-Jones on Ext 5773

Matthew Finch
Director - Communities & Environment