

MINER TO MAJOR LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek Committee approval for the District Council to become a Supporting Partner in the delivery phase of the Miner to Major Landscape Partnership Scheme.
- 1.2 To seek Committee approval for the allocation of £5,000pa from the Promotion of Tourism budget for a 5-year period as partnership funding for the project.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 The Miner to Major (M2M) Landscape Partnership Scheme is a £3.5million multi-agency project which will deliver a range of environmental and community initiatives in the Sherwood area of Nottinghamshire over a 5-year period. If successful, the majority of the funding for the project will be provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund through its Landscape Partnership grant scheme. In November 2014 it was confirmed that the M2M partnership, led by Nottinghamshire County Council and including Newark & Sherwood District Council, had been successful in obtaining a Stage 1 pass from HLF, together with a grant of £119,000 to allow it to develop its Stage 2 application. The District Council contributed £500 to the Stage 1 process.
- 2.2 In November 2015 Beki Howey, the then M2M project officer, gave a presentation to Committee with an update on the progress of the project. Unfortunately the project has subsequently experienced some delays in progressing the Stage 1 development work; however the intention is now to submit the Stage 2 application in February 2018.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 In order to demonstrate the strength of the partnership and support of a wide range of appropriate organisations the M2M project team has drawn up a Partnership Agreement (a copy of which is attached as **Appendix A** and has asked all partners to sign up to the agreement as either a Partner or Supporting Partner. As the District Council is not actually delivering any of the projects it is proposed that we agree to be a Supporting Partner.
- 3.2 The Council's Legal section has checked the Partnership Agreement and confirmed that it does not contain anything that would be considered to be onerous or unreasonable.
- 3.3 Nottinghamshire County Council has taken on the lead responsibility for submitting the Stage 2 application and confirming the match funding for the Delivery Stage of the project. The County Council has requested that the District Council provide partnership funding of £25,000 and the Business Manager – Economic Growth has confirmed that this can be found from the Promotion of Tourism budget over a 5year period. The funds will be made available on the basis that they are instrumental in promoting tourism in Newark & Sherwood area and specific outputs will be attached to their allocation.

3.4 Around 50% of the project area is in Newark & Sherwood, however communities that sit just outside the project boundary, such as Ollerton & Boughton, Bilsthorpe and Farnsfield, are also amongst the key target audiences. Whilst it is impossible to exactly determine the expenditure that will take place in Newark & Sherwood, the project manager has stated that it would be reasonable to assume that at least 50% of the total spend will be in the District. In addition the key habitat projects will be in Newark & Sherwood, along with much of the species work and some of the main opportunities for volunteering, so it is likely that more than 50% of the capital works will take place in the District.

4.0 Equalities Implications

4.1 It is envisaged that the M2M Landscape Partnership Scheme will prioritise working with a number of audiences that do not traditionally engage in heritage projects within Sherwood, including the residents of former mining communities and surrounding urban areas; young people (16 – 25) and families with young children. All projects delivered under the M2M programme will be subject to equality impact assessments.

5.0 Impact on Budget/Policy Framework

5.1 If successful, M2M will attract c£3.5m of investment to the wider Sherwood area over a 5 year period, subject to satisfactory progress being made. The HLF grant would provide just under 70% of the total, with the remainder as match funding in the form of both cash and in-kind contributions. As outlined at 3.4 above a high proportion of the individual projects will be delivered within Newark & Sherwood and there will thus be significant and positive economic, environmental and social impacts on the District.

5.2 The M2M project will help to deliver a number of the Council's strategic priorities including:

- People – many of the individual projects will encourage people to become involved in activities which will promote wellbeing and a healthier lifestyle
- Prosperity – the project will result in significant investment in the District, will generate employment, training and volunteering opportunities and will help to grow the tourism sector
- Place – many of the key themes running through the M2M project are linked with biodiversity and sustainability
- Public Service – individual projects will provide opportunities for local people to become involved as volunteers and community leaders.

5.3 The recently published Social Mobility Index has confirmed the need to provide opportunities to assist people in the 18-24 age range in the District to gain experience leading to employment. The under25 target audience for the accredited learning/work experience strand has included early discussions with the Dukeries Academy and the M2M project will thus have a positive impact on employment and training opportunities for people in this age range.

5.4 As noted above the District Council's financial contribution to the project can be found from within the existing Promotion of Tourism budget thus obviating the need for any additional budgetary commitments.

6.0 Comments of Deputy S151 Officer

6.1 The £25,000 contribution will be charged £5,000 per annum to the Promotion of Tourism budget. This can be contained within the existing budget provision.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

- a) Committee give its approval to the District Council becoming a Supporting Partner in the delivery phase of the Miner to Major Landscape Partnership Scheme; and
- b) Committee approve the allocation of £5,000 pa from the Promotion of Tourism budget for 2018/19 and commits in principle to further annual contributions for the following four years subject to the demonstration of satisfactory progress with the project.

Reason for Recommendations

To ensure that the District Council is fully involved in this major regeneration project.

Background Papers

Partnership Agreement (attached as **Appendix A**).

For further information please contact Phil Beard on Ext 5714.

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