

ASHINGTON/BLYTH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

13 SEPTEMBER 2017

HIRST PARK REVIVAL

Report of the Director of Local Services & Housing Delivery

Cabinet member: Councillor Glen Sanderson, Environment and Local Services

Purpose of the report

To update the members on progress with the Hirst Park Revival, Parks for People Project

Recommendation

That the members note the report.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the Places and Environment - Managing Our Streets and Spaces priority included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2013-2017.

Key issues

The project will lead to a complete restoration and revival of Hirst park in Ashington, adding new attractions for visitors, as well as creating training and volunteer opportunities, and making the park fit for the twenty first century.

Background

After a first round approval of the Hirst Park Revival project in December 2015, the second round bid for a total project value of **£2,728,910** over 5 years was submitted on 28 February 2017 and was approved by the HLF national board in late June 2017.

The overall project funding breakdown is shown in the table below:

Projected income over 5 years	
HLF Parks for People Grant	£2,295,300
Ashington Leisure Partnership	£75,000
Capital contribution from Northumberland County Council	£190,000
Additional management and maintenance costs to be met jointly by NCC and ATC	£95,800
Capital contribution from Ashington Town Council	£40,000
Income from hire of meeting room	£1,300
Income from catering concession	£7,000
Rent from Full Circle Food Project	£260
Contribution from Northumberland College	£3,500
Contribution from BAIT	£2,500
NCC Events income	£2,500
Volunteers time	£15,000
Non cash contribution from Northumberland County Council (staff time)	£750
Total	£2,728,910

The proposed park enhancements will include:

- Restoring and improving gateways, paths, street furniture, boundary walls and lighting.
- Enhancing the floral beds and shrub beds
- Providing new signage and interpretation
- Improving the existing play facilities and providing a new water play area
- Installing outdoor fitness equipment
- Creating a new outdoor performance area incorporating accessible stage, seating and community space.
- Creating a new formal garden
- Restoring the buildings behind Hirst Park House to create a community growing zone and horticultural training area.
- Working in partnership with Northumberland College to provide horticultural training opportunities in the growing zone and on the park generally.
- Working with the Full Circle Food Project to provide a new community allotment site.
- Providing a programme of community engagement events and activities over the 5 year period of the project.
- Providing volunteer opportunities and re-establishing a 'Friends of Hirst Park' group.

It is anticipated that detailed design work on the project will commence in October 2017 and that the fully designed capital scheme will go out to tender in April 2018. Works on site are expected to commence in July 2018 and complete in July 2019.

Two Park Development Officers (one full time and one part time) will be appointed for the 5 year duration of the project to deliver the agreed activity programme and to work with volunteers, apprentices and trainees. The Park Development Officers will be recruited as soon as possible after commencement of the project in September 2017.

Throughout the course of the project the community steering group will continue to meet on a regular basis to monitor and review progress and to make ongoing input into detailed design decisions

Implications

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	The project is funded by a number of partners as outlined above.
Legal	None
Procurement	The project will be procured using the council's normal procurement procedures
Human Resources	None
Property	The park is owned by the county council
Equalities (Impact assessment attached?) NO	Equalities considerations will be incorporated into the design of the capital scheme and the delivery of events and activities in the park
Risk Assessment	Individual risk assessments will be carried as necessary throughout the project.
Crime and Disorder	The project aims to engage with a wide cross section of the community including those currently involved in antisocial behaviour in the park. Lighting will be improved and CCTV considered as part of the project.
Customer Considerations	The project will greatly enhance the visitor offer in the park.
Carbon Reduction	Principles of energy efficient design will be adopted where possible.
Wards	Hirst

Background papers

Hist Park Master Plan

Report sign off

Authors must ensure that relevant officers and members have agreed the content of the report

	Initials
Finance officer	AM
Monitoring officer/Legal	
Human Resources	
Procurement	
IT	
Executive Director	PJ
Portfolio holder	GS

Author and Contact Details

This report has been prepared by Mike Jeffrey, Countryside and Green Spaces Manager, Tel 01670 623020. email mike.jeffrey@northumberland.gov.uk