



**Council – 24 November 2022**

## **HURST FARM HERITAGE TRAIL LOTTERY BID APPROVAL**

### **Report of Director of Housing**

#### **Report Author and Contact Details**

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#### **Wards Affected**

Matlock St Giles

### **Report Summary**

The Hurst Farm Regeneration project has been in place since September 2017. The project is delivering across several headings, the most recent being the award of a £1.2m Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant that will deliver a new footpath around the estate, linking four key heritage assets. Numerous other projects and services will also be delivered within the programme. The funding body for the HLF grant require the Council to enter in to a Funding Agreement. This report therefore seeks the Council's support to sign the Funding Agreement and be bound by the terms of the agreement.

### **Recommendations**

1. That the Director of Resources be authorised to sign the Funding Agreement and notes that the Council will be bound by the terms of the agreement;
2. That the terms of the HLF grant conditions be accepted and agreed and that the Director of Housing be authorised to submit the required information to the HLF;
3. That £682,885 (£565,034 plus £36,722 inflation and £81,129 contingencies) be added to the Council's capital programme in respect of the Hurst Farm Heritage Trail project, with the expenditure being financed by the HLF grant;
4. That a supplementary revenue budget of £326,115 (£272,942 plus £7,927 for inflation and £45,246 contingencies) be approved for 2022/23 in respect of revenue expenditure on the Hurst Farm Heritage Trail project, to be financed by a grant from the HLF.

**List of Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Heritage Fund award letter

**Background Papers**

Community and Environment Committee 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Community and Environment Committee 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Community and Environment Committee 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Community and Environment Committee 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016

**Consideration of report by Council or other committee**

N/A

**Council Approval Required**

Yes

**Exempt from Press or Public**

No

# HURST FARM HERITAGE TRAIL LOTTERY BID APPROVAL

## 1. Background

- 1.1 The Hurst Farm Heritage Trail project seeks to deliver a £1,222,841 Heritage Lottery grant awarded to DDDC for the creation of the Hurst Farm Heritage Trail. The HLF grant is £1,009,000 with the balance match funding from existing Council budgets and estimated value of volunteer time. Funding will be for three years from Nov/Dec 2022 - December 2025 and includes capital funding to build footpath infrastructure and undertake woodland management and revenue funding to deliver an activity program over 3 years. The exact start date is dependent on the permission to start being granted by the Heritage Lottery. We have already been informed by the funder that this likely to be delayed, due to their current reduced staff capacity.
- 1.2 The Heritage Trail project is a key part of the wider Hurst Farm Regeneration Vision created in partnership with the Hurst Farm community and other partners. Work started in Sept 2017 and the vision was launched in November 2019. The Hurst Farm Heritage Trail will restore 14.4 hectares of woodland adjacent to the Hurst Farm Estate (Matlock), using the natural and built heritage as a catalyst to improve the landscape, conserve nature, support a disadvantaged community, improve wellbeing and assist in regenerating a deprived area.
- 1.3 The Community and Environment Committee of the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 approved the Hurst Farm Woodland Management Plan. This approval was a key element of the HLF bid submission and signalled the Council's intention to bid for the HLF funding.

## 2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The HLF work with numerous organisations with different legal and organisational arrangements in place. The grant offer letter setting out the terms of the grant and the level of sign off required by organisations seeks to encompass a wide variety of legal entities. In accepting the grant conditions the Council must send a certified copy of the document recording the Council's decision authorising acceptance of the terms of the grant. The Council is also required to provide the following information;
  - set out the power under which the terms of the grant have been accepted,
  - provide an extract of the policy framework under which we have accepted the grant,
  - the executive arrangements under which the Council's decision to accept the Terms of Grant was made,
  - the considerations the Council took into account in using the powers and the procedure under which any consultation took place and the decision was made,
  - the authority under which the Declaration forming part of the Application has been signed on our behalf

### 3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

- 3.1 In this instance there is no specific options appraisal required. There is only one course of action open to the Council in order to deliver the previously agreed footpath and other works. The Estate Regeneration Manager has established an internal project group to ensure a corporate response to the key issues arising from the HLF project. Subject to approval by Council, the group will prepare a response accepting the grant and send this to the HLF for their consideration and acceptance.

### 4. Consultation

- 4.1 Consultation concerning the Hurst Farm regeneration project has been ongoing since 2017. The decision to pursue the improvement of the footpaths around the estate came from consultation with residents. The existing footpath network is very poor in places, native species of plants and insects are at risk and the original views across the area have been blocked by invasive species of plants and trees. Delivery of the HLF project will respond to the concerns of residents and further enhance the regeneration of the wider estate.

### 5. Timetable for Implementation

- 5.1 Subject to Council approval of the funding agreement, the works will take place over a 2.5 year period. The HLF will issue a 'permission to start' which will allow expenditure to begin.

### 6. Policy Implications

- 6.1 Delivery of the HLF project will support the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2024 specifically contributing to;
- **People** – helping residents to access and enjoy the woodland and heritage assets around Hurst Farm.
  - **Place** – manage woodland, improve biodiversity and create a safe footpath
  - **Prosperity** – support the development of the Green Estate social enterprise and bring investment to the district.

### 7. Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 The approved costs of the Hurst Farm Heritage Trail project total £1,222,841. The breakdown of costs between capital and revenue, and the source of funding is set out in the table below:

	Approved project costs	HLF Grant	Existing revenue budget
<b>Capital expenditure</b>			
- Direct	£565,034	£565,034	0
- Inflation	£36,722	£36,722	
- Contingencies etc.	£81,129	£81,129	0
	<b>£682,885</b>	<b>£682,885</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Revenue expenditure</b>			
- Direct	£272,942	£272,942	0
- Project Manager	£161,441	0	£161,441
- Volunteer Programme (notional cost)	£52,400	0	£52,400
- Inflation	£7,927	£7,927	0
- Contingencies	£45,246	£45,246	0
	<b>£539,956</b>	<b>£326,115</b>	<b>£213,841</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,222,841</b>	<b>£1,009,000</b>	<b>£213,841</b>

7.2 The majority of the costs are covered by the grant award of £1,009,000 and the other costs can be accommodated within the existing revenue budget. An allowance has been made for inflation and contingencies. Therefore, the financial risk is assessed as low.

## **8. Legal Advice and Implications**

8.1 This report provides members with updates on the Hurst Farm Regeneration project has been in place since September 2017. The report contains 4 recommendations seeking member approval. The legal risk at the current time has been assessed as low.

## **9. Equalities Implications**

9.1 The Hurst Farm Regeneration project is seeking to deliver a long term improvement to the wider estate that will benefit residents now and future generations. The Matlock St Giles Ward is within the top 10 most deprived wards in England. As such the regeneration project and all of the subsequent activities are seeking to improve the access to employment, education and training, the local woodland, improve housing conditions and health outcomes. These activities will reduce inequality and give all residents the opportunity to access services and facilities that will have a long term benefit.

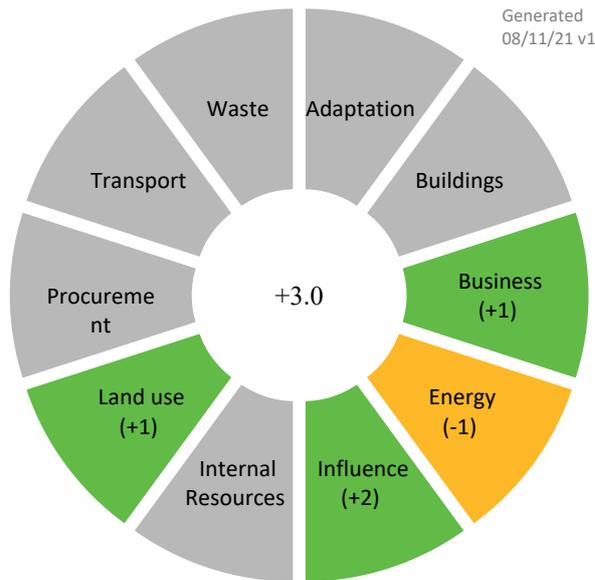
## **10. Climate Change Implications**

10.1 The CCIA has been undertaken on the Woodland Conservation Management and Maintenance Plan. It is worth noting that the plan has been developed with expert external input and consultation. The plan seeks to carry out essential woodland management while retaining the wild, natural character of the wood. While some trees will be removed for specific reasons, new trees will be planted, new habitats will be created and existing ones improved.

10.2 In order to best enhance habitats a landscape scale approach is proposed which will prove particularly important as wildlife species move due to the impacts of climate change. The overall impacts on land use and biodiversity are therefore positive. The plan puts the community at the heart of the woodland it intends to engage and train community volunteers – developing ‘green skills’ such as hedge laying.

10.3 It is noted in the assessment that the plan suggests use of petrol powered equipment e.g. brush cutters and leaf blowers in order to complete some of

the woodland management tasks required, but there are plans to acquire electric equipment where possible and to introduce 'old-fashioned' non powered tools and skills where possible to improve long term resilience within the community.



## 11. Risk Management

- 11.1 The grant funding will be paid to DDDC in arrears on a quarterly basis based on evidence of expenditure to the funder. 10% of the funding will be held back until the project has been completed. This requires DDDC to cashflow the project. This was identified and raised as part of the development phase and was approved. The increasing inflation rate may affect how much we can deliver for the fixed grant of the proposed project. Significant rise in material and contractor building costs may require the scope of the capital project to be adapted from its current proposed budget. The project budget has 8% of inflation built into the capital costs and a large 15% contingency.
- 11.2 The Hurst Farm Green Estate social enterprise was set up for this project and is part of the project legacy. It will be employed by DDDC to deliver aspects of the Heritage Trail Activity Plan. As the grant holder DDDC will be responsible to oversee that the delivery of the Activity Plan happens to the quality, timescale and budget set out in the bid. Therefore, in case of the Green Estate not delivering within agreed parameters, DDDC would be required to take over the full delivery.
- 11.3 As part of the project support an internal working group has been established with representatives from housing, finance, legal and regulatory services. This group will meet at regular intervals to support the project delivery.

### Report Authorisation

Approvals obtained from:-

	<b>Named Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chief Executive	Paul Wilson	16/11/2022
Director of Resources/ S.151 Officer (or Financial Services Manager)	Karen Henriksen	15/11/2022
Monitoring Officer (or Legal Services Manager)	James McLaughlin	16/11/2022