

Decision Schedule



Joint Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Housing and Streetscene

TO ALL MEMBERS OF NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL

Decision Schedule published on 2 February 2018

The Cabinet Members took the following decision on 2 February 2018. It will take immediate effect, the reason for this decision being the Heritage Lottery Fund, through Big Lottery have a deadline of 5 February 2018 in order to announce the award of £2.54 million to the Living Levels Scheme for which Newport City Council will be the major beneficiary. This will not be awarded unless they have a signed partnership agreement document from the Council on that day.

The decision is not subject to the 'Call-in- Process.

In accordance with Standing Order 24 – Urgent Matters, this matter will be forwarded to the Audit Committee.

In accordance Reports relating to staffing issues/Confidential reports are not circulated to all members of the Council as part of the consultation/call-in processes.

R&H & Streetscene 01/18

Living Levels Landscape Partnership Heritage Lottery Fund Offer – Partnership Agreement

Options Considered/Reasons for Decision

To seek approval to sign the partner agreement and the underwriting implications, in order to maximise the benefits to Newport of £2.5 million HLF Landscape Fund offered for the Living Levels programme.

The Living Levels Landscape Partnership is a consortium of 12 stakeholders across The Gwent Levels. A report in 2015 was approved to progress the development phase of this project, fully funded by HLF. NCC are currently represented on the Board. The second round Bid for HLF funding was submitted by RSPB on behalf of the partners. This was successful in attracting £2.5 million of grant towards a programme total of £3.7 million.

The potential external match funding £1.19 million has been identified. £680,686 has already been secured, and over £400,000 is in the pipeline. Whilst the outlook is very favourable to secure all of this or even more, there is still a low financial risk involved of not securing enough.

We are now being asked to sign the final partner agreements to be able to move ahead. As a security RSPB are requesting potential underwriting from all partners, and are providing this themselves too. There was a Board decision to share risk equally. Whilst

the total underwriting is £480,000, Newport City Council is being asked for potential underwriting £30,000 per annum for three years. This is only in the event of an unsuccessful target income being generated, or a cash flow issue. Any grant coming in afterwards will be paid back in.

It is intended that this is managed within the service areas of Streetscene and Marketing and Communications using some ring fenced tourism budget and other funding such as PROW funds. Funding probably being secured through the Newport CC Landfill tax will also help reduce any risk.

Decision

As NCC is the main beneficiary of the £2.5 million grant offered, and is providing no actual match funding, it is moved to proceed with the partnership agreement including the low risk underwriting requested of a maximum of £30,000 per annum over three years to 2021.

This decision is not subject to the consultation process or the call in period for the reasons described above.

Consultation

Head of Finance, Head of People and Business Change

Implemented by: Monitoring Officer

Implementation Timetable: Immediate

COUNCILLOR J MUDD, CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & HOUSING

COUNCILLOR R JEAUVONS, CABINET MEMBER FOR STREETSCENE

2 February 2018
