

Transport & Environment Committee

27 August 2013

Heritage Lottery Funding Approved Saughton Park & Gardens

Item number	7.18
Report number	
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Executive summary

Heritage Lottery Fund Application Approved Saughton Park & Gardens

Summary

As detailed in the report presented and approved by the Transport and Environment Committee on 19 March 2013, the City of Edinburgh Council submitted an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) on 28 February 2013 to fund the restoration and regeneration of the historic Saughton Park and Gardens.

This report confirms that a Development Grant was awarded to City of Edinburgh Council on the 2 July 2013. This grant secures funding for up to two years for the Council and community to undertake further consultation, research and design work and prepare a more financially detailed second stage submission in 2015.

HLF will supply the grant of £392k in July 2013, the Council will be expected to contribute £141k of its project contribution to the Development Stage, which will allow the appointment of a Project Manager and Development Officer to manage the project and more fully engage with users and the wider community. These staff would report to a Project Board and an associated Project Team of professional staff and community representatives.

Partnership with The Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society (“The Caley”) who supported the Council’s bid will be an important element of the development phase. The Caley will base their operations from Saughton Gardens, will work closely with the Council to plan the renovation and development of the gardens and will also be involved in supporting the Council raise third party funds and lead the development of a horticultural volunteer programme and community outreach initiative

Recommendations

1. To note that the first stage application for funding to the Heritage Lottery Fund for restoration of Saughton Park and Gardens has been successful and that the two year Development Phase of the project will commence this summer.

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- b) Note the intention to submit a further more detailed report at the end of the Development Phase in 2015.

Measures of success

- Securing the Delivery Stage funding of £3.7m from the HLF and third parties to renovate an historic park and gardens in urgent need of restoration.
- Securing a Green Flag Award for this Premier Park once restoration works have been completed.
- Evidence of increased visitor numbers to the park and gardens.

Financial impact

The total estimated project cost is £5.83m. Funding of £4.09m is sought from the HLF and £233k from third party sources. There is an expectation of £1.25m capital from the Council, phased over a six year period from July 2013. This includes an already approved £250k from Corporate Governance to install a micro-hydro turbine (originally championed by the Lord Provost) to generate power for the proposed garden café and community facility. The Council will be required to contribute £141,233 over the two year development stage and then a contribution of £1,108,766 (inclusive of the £250k for the micro-turbine) over the following four years to complete the Delivery Phase.

Equalities impact

No equalities impact at this stage.

Sustainability impact

The restoration works will ensure the sustainable future of these historic gardens and park. The creation of a community café and community space within the restored stable block, along with a partnership with the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society and establishment of a Friend's Group, will significantly improve the likelihood of sustaining the long-term future of this Premier Park.

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All works will be undertaken to BREEAM “Very Good” standards, and future energy will be generated through a micro-hydro scheme on the adjacent Water of Leith.

Consultation and engagement

An on-going programme of consultation with park user groups and community group representatives is in place. During the Development Phase of the project the appointment of a Project Manager and Development Officer to manage the project will allow a more fully engaged consultation with users and the wider community, ensuring that community involvement is embedded and that all ideas and requirements are considered prior to the Delivery Phase.

Background reading / external references

Transport & Environment Committee Report - Heritage Lottery Fund Application Saughton Park & Gardens 17 March 2013.

A draft copy of the application is available on request.

For further information regarding the BREEAM standards: <http://www.breeam.org>

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Links

Coalition pledges	P31 Maintain our City’s reputation as the cultural capital of the world by continuing to support and invest in our cultural infrastructure P48 Use Green Flag and other strategies to preserve our green spaces
Council outcomes	C07 Edinburgh draws new investment in development and regeneration

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	CO19 Edinburgh remains an attractive city through the development of high quality buildings and places and the delivery of high standards and maintenance of infrastructure and public realm
	CO23 Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community
Single Outcome Agreement	SO4 Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric
Appendices	N/A