

Executive Decision Report

Victoria Park Gate Restoration and the Story of Leicester's Parks

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor

Decision to be taken on: 23rd July 2015

Lead director: John Leach



City Mayor

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Brian Stafford, Project & Development Manager, Local Services & Enforcement
- Author contact details: x37 4923
- Report version number: 1.0

1. Summary

The City Council has received approval for a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant of up to £502,300 to restore the historic park gates at Victoria Park in Leicester, together with a programme of events and activities based around the history of Victoria Park and other parks in the City.

Approval is required from the City Mayor in order to enter into the funding agreement with HLF and to add the capital aspects of the project to the capital programme.

2. Recommendations

That the City Mayor approves:

- a) Entering into a grant agreement with the Heritage Lottery Fund for up to £502,300;
- b) The release of £40,000 from the capital provision for the Victoria Park Centenary Walk project within Phase 2 of the Economic Action Plan; and
- c) The addition of the capital aspects of the project to the capital programme, in the sum of £452,700.

3. Supporting information including options considered:

In 2013, the City Council submitted a development grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for proposals regarding the restoration of the historic park gates at Victoria Park in Leicester. These gates, installed in the 1930's, are an integral part of the park's history. However in recent years they have been steadily deteriorating in condition, especially the Peace Walk gates leading up to the War Memorial on Lancaster Road.

The proposal was for restoration works to the gates, alongside a bigger programme of events & activities looking at the history of not only Victoria Park, but other parks and cemeteries across the City. Funding to develop the proposals was granted in early 2014 and a project officer recruited to develop the project activity plan and the gate restoration proposals.

In late 2014, the City Council submitted its final detailed application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the funding and was notified in March 2015 that this application had

been successful, with a subsequent award of up to £502,300 for the gate restoration works and activity programme.

The project will have a 2 year programme until March 2017 and will take place at Victoria Park and others across the city. Volunteers will be recruited to the project to help undertake research and produce historical information, which will be used in project materials up until its completion date.

The restoration works will complement the City Council's Centenary Walk project at the park, which aims to undertake regeneration work around the historic park lodges and car park areas. Without funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, there would be no capital monies available from this project to help fund the gate restoration works.

4. Details of Scrutiny

n/a

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

The overall project cost is estimated at £590,200, plus volunteer time. This will be funded by up to £502,300 from the HLF (pro-rata to actual spend), £40,000 from the capital provision for the Victoria Park Centenary Walk project within Phase 2 of the Economic Action Plan and £47,900 from current and future revenue budgets. The capital elements of the project (repairs to the Victoria Park gates and interpretation boards) total an estimated £452,700. – Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance, ext .37 4081

5.2 Legal implications

Legal Services are advising on the Heritage Lottery Fund's grant conditions and can advise on the terms of the works contract to refurbish the Victoria Park gates and any agreement relating to the associated programme of events and activities.

Greg Surtees, Legal Services, [ext 37 1421](#)

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

No Climate change implications

5.4 Equalities Implications

N/A

5.5 Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

N/A

6. Background information and other papers:

Victoria Park Centenary Walk, City Mayor individual decision, 29th January 2014

7. Summary of appendices:

None

8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

9. Is this a “key decision”?

No

10. If a key decision please explain reason