

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 08 February 2022

TITLE	Stoke Park Estate Restoration		
Ward(s)	Lockleaze, Frome Vale, Eastville, South Glos		
Author: Kit Beaumont	Job title: Heritage and Estates Officer		
Cabinet lead: Cllr King, Cabinet Member Public Health, Communities and Bristol City One	Executive Director lead: Stephen Peacock, Executive Director Growth and Regeneration		
Proposal origin: <i>BCC Staff</i>			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: <i>Cabinet</i>			
Purpose of Report:			
1. To approve the submission of National Lottery Heritage Fund grant to fund restoration work in Stoke Park.			
Evidence Base:			
1. Stoke Park Estate (grade II Registered landscape) has been in council ownership since 2012. There is a dowry attached to the park which we plan to use to generate match funding for park restoration works.			
2. The landscape and Scheduled Monument (WWII Anti-aircraft gun battery, 'Purdown Percy') within the park are both on the Heritage at Risk Register.			
3. Stoke Park is a priority BCC site for restoration following a Heritage Evaluation framework assessment (criteria: Deliverability, Heritage Significance, Audience Development, Community Benefit, Strategic Fit, Environmental Impact and Economics). Restoration options have been explored via a business case approach recommending 'Full' restoration, including removal of the park from the at-risk register, provision of facilities, community engagement and options to generate income to address operating costs.			
4. In 2016 Historic England part funded a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the site. This highlights many of the factors impacting on the park, identifies opportunities for development and sets out a clear way to remove both the registered park and the scheduled monument from the heritage at Risk register.			
5. In 2017 the council made a grant application to Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) (now National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) which was unsuccessful.			
6. Following feedback from NLHF BCC developed its plans and submitted a successful Expression of Interest (EOI) in the summer of 2021.			
7. We have now been invited to submit a stage 1 'development round' bid in Feb 2022 taking into account feedback from the EOI which focused around presenting a clearer proposal for visitor facilities, community activity and, if possible, a greater level of third party fundraising.			
8. Specifically, our project will:			
Restore historic landscape, features and improve access:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the priorities set out in the Conservation Management Plan; • Restore the C18th woodland walks and significantly improve access around the site; • Save the scheduled monument and other heritage features from further deterioration through restoration that 			

will preserve them and find new ways to bring their important stories alive. This will provide greater access to heritage and learning opportunities;

- Bring the woodlands back into management with coppicing and thinning;
- Restore hedgerows and historic field boundaries;
- Manage scrubland through grazing and volunteering, seeking an approach that conserves both the ecological and the aesthetic values of the landscape and prevents any further loss of species rich grassland.
- Identify opportunities to receive investment through the biodiversity net gains in response to Bristol’s Ecological Emergency;
- Fund 0.5fte Park Ranger dedicated to supporting the management of the landscape and community action;
- Bring the site alive through interpretation and improved signage;
- A green transport initiative including links to the MetroLink bus stop on Stoke Lane.

Community engagement and social enterprise:

- Promote community priorities and enjoyment;
- Fund 0.6fte community activator role to engage the wider community, link in the with the park ranger, plan activities and events as well as helping to run co-design workshops/sessions;
- Fund 0.4fte community advocate role to work closely with specific target groups who face significant barriers to accessing the park. Identify opportunities and ensure groups remain engaged beyond the life of the project.
- In keeping with BCC Inclusive Growth Strategy and Building Back Better we will develop links with social enterprises and commercial partnerships that share our ambition for generating income while delivering positive social & environmental change;
- Work with local organisations to create a range of opportunities and engagement tools that encourage under-represented groups to use the park including a significantly increased and diverse volunteer programme;
- Develop a wide range of events and activities for nature connection, health & wellbeing and green social prescribing;
- Provide skills training for staff, volunteers, students, and community groups to provide a sustainable future;
- Empower the local community to feel a sense of ownership and pride in their local green space;
- Provide opportunities for community action, co-design and enterprise.
- Work with Your Park to identify opportunities for further grant applications, in park donations and a possible crowd funder project. Your Park will also be able to provide support to community groups who are interested in running activities in the park.

Provision of visitor facilities:

- Provide toilets close to Romney Avenue
- Provide utilities and hardstanding for two community run and managed F&B offers (initially seasonal). One close to The Vench and Romney avenue (next to the proposed toilets) and one near the Purdown Gun Battery to support events and activities that take place there.

9. This is a three-stage application process. We have successful submitted an expression of interest and have now been invited to apply for a ‘Development stage’ grant which will give us 18 months to work up the project into greater detail and test run some of our proposals.

10. The application date for this grant is **24th February 2022** with notification of success in June 2022

11. If we are successful at this stage, we will be invited to apply for a larger ‘Delivery Phase’ grant to deliver the capital works.

12. Overall cost:

Development phase bid costs		(June 2022 – Dec 2023)
BCC dowry contribution	£93k	
Other fundraising	£10k	
NLHF grant	£375k	
Total	£478k	
Delivery phase costs		(June 2024 – June 2028)

BCC dowry contribution	£688k
Other fundraising	£110k
NLHF grant	£2,617k
Total delivery phase	£3,416k

Total project costs	
BCC Stoke Park Dowry contribution	£781k
Other fundraising	£120k
NLHF Grant	£2,993k
Grand Total	£3,894k

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the submission of the 'development stage' grant application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the restoration of Stoke Park.
2. Approve £93k match funding from the Stoke Park dowry to support the 'development stage bid' bid for £478k
3. Authorises the Executive Director Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member Public Health, Communities and Bristol City One to spend the funding (including procuring and awarding contracts) as outlined in this report.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. Will enable people to better support their community through volunteer opportunities
2. Will help develop a balanced community by attracting a wider and more diverse range of users to the park
3. Improve access to green spaces
4. Improve physical & mental health and wellbeing for a wide range of Bristol citizens
5. Preserve important aspects of Bristol's heritage for future generations to enjoy

City Benefits:

1. Provide access to a high quality, nature and historically rich, green space for Bristol's citizens
2. Provide a sustainable future for the park through income generation and better landscape management
3. Promote community cohesion through a wide range of volunteer and community activities
4. Improve health and wellbeing of park users
5. Boost the local economy through the running of events and onsite concession
6. Create jobs and skills development opportunities

Consultation Details:

1. Significant public consultation has already taken place on the back of the 2016 conservation management and again in 2018/19 where over 600 conversations were had at public events in the park. The outcomes from these conversations are directly feeding into our plans for the park.

Background Documents:

[National Lottery Grants for Heritage 2021/22 Guidance](#)

[Stoke Park Conservation Management Plan](#)

[Purdown Heavy Artillery Gun Battery Conservation Management Plan](#)

[13 July 2021 Cabinet report 'National Lottery Project Prioritisation - Stoke Park and Temple Church and gardens'](#)

Revenue Cost	£	Source of Revenue Funding	<i>Insert specific service budget</i>
Capital Cost	£3.9M	Source of Capital Funding	Grant + match funding from Stoke Park dowry
One off cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

Finance Advice:

1. The Stoke Park Estate Restoration project is a three-stage application process. This report seeks approval to progress to stage two and submit a bid application for the 'development phase' following a successfully stage one, expression of interest (EOI) application to National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) in the summer 2021.
2. The project requires match funding, which will be met by the Stoke Park Dowry. The Stoke Park Dowry has a value of £872k as of 31 March 2021, therefore the match funding source is available. Since the EOI, a further £16k has been identified to be use on the project, taking the match funding to £781k, which the service considers as the most appropriate use of the reserve.
3. Stage=two, the 'development phase' would be committing BCC Stoke Park Dowry to £93k, fundraising of £10k, but unlocking £375k of NLHF funding. Total funding allocation for stage-two is £478k, and provides 18 months of funding to develop and firm-up current plans and cost estimates in preparation for stage three, the 'delivery phase'. Since the EOI and following positive feedback from the NLHF, several costing adjustments have already been made, reducing expenditure and saving of costs.
4. The project will require further authorisation and Cabinet approval if it is decided to continue onto stage three and bid for the 'delivery phase' funding.
5. Risk mitigations need to be managed through the project life cycle – including fundraising risks, especially if they fall short, which would involve discussions with the NLHF and possible descoping of elements of the project; effective sourcing of resources; management of staff, timescales, and budgets.
6. Any on-going expenditure would need to be met by the Service's revenue budget and from income generation activities, such as, on-going fundraising and any additional grant opportunities.

Finance Business Partner: Kayode Olagundoye, Interim Finance Business Partner, Growth and Regeneration, 14th January 2022

2. Legal Advice: The submission of a bid for funding does not in itself raise any specific legal implications. If successful, Legal Services will advise and assist in relation to the grant agreement.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Leader/Solicitor, 17, January 2022

3. Implications on IT: "At this early stage there does not appear to be any impact on IT Services"

IT Team Leader: Simon Oliver, IT Team Leader, 15 December 2021

4. HR Advice: 'There are no HR implications evident'

HR Partner: Celia Williams HR Business Partner – Growth and Regeneration, December 2021

EDM Sign-off	Stephen Peacock, Executive Director Growth and Regeneration	21 st December 2021
Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllr Ellie King, Cabinet Member Public Health, Communities and Bristol City One	17 th December 2021
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	10 th January 2022

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	NO
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	YES
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	YES
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES

Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO