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| REPORT TO: | HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES | AGENDA ITEM: 8 |
| DATE OF MEETING: | AUGUST 22ND 2019 | CATEGORY: DELEGATED |
| REPORT FROM: | ALLISON THOMAS - STRATEGIC DIRECTOR SERVICE DELIVERY | OPEN |
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| SUBJECT: | EUREKA PARK PROJECT - HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND FINAL REPORT | |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | MIDWAY, SWADLINCOTE | TERMS OF REFERENCE: HC07 |

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee notes the contents of the final report to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) following completion of the five-year project to renovate Eureka Park, celebrate its heritage and engage the local community.
- 1.2 That members approve the concept behind the installation of mining related sculptures and artefacts at Eureka Park as a further and final element of the project.

2.0 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To update members on the successful outcome of the HLF funded project at Eureka Park.
- 2.2 To gain approval for the concept behind the installation of mining related sculptures and artefacts at Eureka Park.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 None required.

4.0 Detail

- 4.1 In February 2013 the Committee approved a report requesting acceptance of a grant offer from the HLF Parks for People Programme for £547,316 and to recruit a Community Engagement Officer to help deliver the community engagement aspects of the project.
- 4.2 The five- year project has now come to an end and attached as Appendix 1 is the final evaluation report required for submission to the HLF as part of the grant conditions and final claim requirements. The report details the projects aims, the physical restoration works involved, the community engagement through events and

activities and education and learning, the improved marketing and promotion, the management and maintenance plans and the volunteer presence.

- 4.3 The aims of the project were to increase the range of the park's audience; conserve and enhance the diverse heritage; increase the range of volunteers; improve skills and knowledge and improve management and maintenance.
- 4.4 The report concludes that the project successfully achieved all of its major aims. The capital investment was completed in 2014 and the delivery of the landscape masterplan has ensured restoration and interpretation works have been delivered that have improved the heritage, environment and horticultural elements within the Park.
- 4.5 The appointment of a Community Engagement Officer meant the associated activity plan was adhered to and sustainability of the Park was increased by improving the skills of the workforce and volunteers. Many partnerships were formed with organisations including Chameleon School of Construction, The Prince's Trust and DART Training Limited. In addition activities increased for the 'friends group' which was re-established and over 600 volunteers took part in the project.
- 4.6 Play and sports equipment has been refurbished and an outdoor gym added to the site, improving facilities and footfall. A focus on working with partners has been paramount and successful in engaging young people positively within the Park, for example with the youth planning group and eUReka Youth event. A wide range of improved publicity and marketing has been created, such as the SPRYTAR app, use of social media and also the volunteer involvement, meaning the range of visitors has increased significantly, with over 15,000 people attending events and activities throughout the project's lifespan.
- 4.7 The quality of the maintenance and management continues to improve, with a revised management plan in 2018 and regular management meetings between Cultural Services and Grounds Maintenance teams. The appointment of a permanent Park Keeper impacted positively with a noticeable improvement to the Park's cleanliness. Also minor vandalism and damage is reported as it happens through a clear reporting system, which is proving effective in providing a rapid response to issues. Green Flag status has been attained and a clear plan is in place to ensure the award is retained.
- 4.8 The report, therefore, determines that the vision for the project has been achieved, specifically "To restore the physical and cultural heritage of Eureka Park, to get the Park used and enjoyed by a wider audience through a greater choice of activities, facilities and improved surroundings, and to involve local people in the future of the Park".
- 4.9 One final physical element of the project remains outstanding namely a mining installation that includes two sculptures and two artefacts celebrating the mining heritage of the Park. A simple sketch outlining the concept and relationship between the features is attached as Appendix 2. Pictures of the two sculptures are attached as Appendix 3.
- 4.10 The artefacts are a pit wheel and mining cart rescued at the closure of Cadley pit and retained by the South Derbyshire Mining Preservation Group (SDMPG) awaiting a suitable final destination. The sculpture of the pit boy has been carved from the "Cadley Oak" which similarly has been held by the SDMPG awaiting a suitable use

and destination. The “Cadley Oak” was part of the tree trunk saved from the last remaining tree outside the Cadley pit. The siting of the installation on the old mining site close to the Park’s war memorial gates has been carefully chosen to maximise both heritage and visual impact at the bottom end of the park.

- 4.11 The current sketch design now needs to be worked up into a fully designed scheme that incorporates all ability access; engineering requirements; interpretation and safety surfacing. The fully designed scheme will be the subject of a future report to committee.
- 4.12 With regard to an exit strategy for the HLF funded project and future plans for the park the general maintenance and upkeep of the restored features will continue to be a priority for the Cultural Services and Grounds Maintenance teams as they strive to maintain the park’s Green Flag status.
- 4.13 In relation to community engagement the Eureka Park Community Engagement Officer post was a temporary post limited to the life of the HLF funded project. Since that post came to an end in January 2019 some of the role and activities previously undertaken by the post-holder have been picked up by the Park Life Officer in addition to their duties at other sites. However, the Park Life Officer post is also currently a temporary post and one where the incumbent has been undertaking other additional duties pending a review and recruitment into the post of Open Space and Facility Development Officer. The appointment and recent start of the new Head of Cultural and Community Services allows for a full review of resource requirements within the Open Space and Facility team including needs related to both the above mentioned posts. Community engagement within Eureka Park and other parks remains a priority for the Cultural services team and a pre-requisite for maintaining Green Flag status.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 Submission of the final evaluation report to the HLF is a grant condition. Alongside the mining installation and completion of a short movie undertaken by volunteer film makers it will enable release of the final grant payment from HLF.
- 5.2 The cost of the mining installation is planned to be met from residual HLF funds and appropriate Section 106 funds but will be detailed in a future report.
- 5.3 The completed installation will need to be added to the Council’s insurance register.
- 5.4 Any financial implications arising from a review of community engagement requirements across the Cultural Services unit will be the subject of a separate report.

6.0 Corporate Implications

Employment Implications: None directly arising from the report. As above in terms of employment implications any review of community engagement and general resource requirements across the Cultural Services unit will be the subject of a separate report.

6.1

Legal Implications: None.

6.2

Corporate Plan Implications: Delivery of the HLF project contributed to the People and Place themes of the Corporate Plan including performance reporting against activities and events.

6.3

Risk Impact: The Installation of the two sculptures was a key deliverable for the project and non-installation could impede receipt of the final grant payment.

Risks associated with the erection and siting of the installation will be considered as part of the design brief and end design and then reviewed periodically post erection. It should be noted that to date there have been no reports of any issues following the installation of the similarly publically accessible bike sculptures outside Green Bank Leisure Centre.

7.0 Community Impact

- 7.1 The report highlights the significant impact the HLF project has had on improving all aspects of Eureka Park.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 The HLF supported Eureka Park project successfully achieved all of its major aims and leaves a lasting legacy for the local community.

9.0 Background Papers

- 9.1 Eureka Park Heritage Lottery Funding report to Housing and Community Services Committee on 7 February 2013.