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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Housing and Community Services Committee</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b> II
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>15 July 2004</b>	<b>CATEGORY:</b> <b>DELEGATED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>Director of Community Services</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>Stuart Batchelor Ext 5820</b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Get Active In The Forest Project</b>	<b>REF:</b>
<b>WARD(S):</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE:</b> H CS07

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### **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 Members approve the development of the 'Get Active In The Forest' Project and authorise the submission of applications for funding.

### **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 The report informs Members of the 'Get Active In The Forest' project which seeks to develop Rosliston Forestry Centre as the 'Physical Activity' Centre for the National Forest.

### **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 In October 2003 Sport England, in collaboration with the New Opportunities Fund, launched the 'Active England' programme. This programme arose from the Governments 'Game Plan' target which aims to get 75% of the population physically active by 2020. This target being set because of the 'obesity time bomb' that will result in a significant proportion of the population being obese and suffering the consequential poor health.
- 3.2 The Active England programme asked for project applications which provided innovative approaches to getting people involved in physical activity.
- 3.3 The emphasis on the 'innovative' approach is required in view of the increasing realization that the historic policy of getting adults involved in mainstream sport had not worked and new approaches were urgently needed.
- 3.4 The launch of the Active England programme coincided with the production of the Rosliston Forestry Centre Strategic Vision which identified the potential for the Centre to become a venue for physical activity in the form of walking, cycling, outdoor pursuits and environmental / conservation works.
- 3.5 In view of the complementary nature of the Strategy and the Active England programme the Centre's partners proposed to submit a Stage One Application to Sport England.



#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The involvement of a host of potential partners in the project has resulted in the development of a large and expansive programme that will be adapted according to the available budget.
- 4.2 The total project cost is potentially £1 500 000 of which £1 300 000 is capital works and £200 000 is revenue development.
- 4.3 The initial Stage One application to Sport England was for £260 000 and has been selected as one of 30 projects, out of over 130 in the region, to go through to Stage Two. Due to the economic benefits of the project EMDA are putting in £100 000 of the £260 000. A full application will be required by the end of August.
- 4.4 The project was also submitted as an 'Expression of Interest' to the Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership for £460 000. This was also approved for the next stage of their funding process and a full application has been requested.
- 4.5 These two applications if successful represent nearly 50% of the funding required for the full project. Further funding is being sought from partners in the project, this includes work in kind from Fern Training and the Forestry Commission to a value of over £100 000. Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire PCT and the National Forest Company have also provisionally offered funding which could be a further £50 000.
- 4.6 The funding profile that has been developed identifies further funders who will be approached as the project develops.
- 4.7 In terms of the District Council contributions it is envisaged that a contribution of £300 000, of which £240 000 is capital and £60,000 (over 3 years) revenue, will be sought through the interim budget round in the summer. This bid would obviously be scored and prioritised along with other bids for capital funding.

#### **5.0 Corporate Implications**

- 5.1 The project contributes to a number of the Council's key aims including, protecting the environment, economic development, reducing crime and disorder, developing leisure activities and supporting the National Forest.
- 5.2 The project also helps meet one of the weaknesses of the CPA inspection which identified a lack of services in the rural areas, particularly for young people.

#### **6.0 Community Implications**

- 6.1 The 'Get Active In The Forest' Project will have significant affect on the community in both health and economic terms.
- 6.2 The Centre and other public open space in the District will be used by the community for activities ranging from walking to hedge laying, archery to orienteering, whilst tourists will be staying in self catering accommodation and spending money in local pubs, shops and visitor attractions.

## **7.0 Conclusions**

- 7.1 The 'Get Active In The Forest' project has already been recognised for its innovation by Sport England and EMDA and the DDEP are showing great interest in its potential for economic impact and training potential.
- 7.2 If successful the project would have an impact across the District and National Forest and be hailed as a centre for physical activity unique in both facilities and opportunities.

## **8.0 Background Papers**

- 8.1 Rosliston Forestry Centre File. E.E.1.