

LOWESTOFT TOWN COUNCIL

BRIEFING

EAST OF ENGLAND PARK REGENERATION PROJECT

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Recommendations:

- This report seeks agreement from the Lowestoft Town Council to submit a bid for external funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in partnership with Waveney District Council and Poetry People.

1.0 Introduction

This briefing seeks agreement from the Lowestoft Town Council for the submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a full stage application for **£95,000** under the “Our Heritage” programme, to be submitted by the **18th January 2019**, for physical heritage interpretation and heritage activity on the green space of East of England Park*. This will be in partnership with Waveney District Council and local creative organisation, Poetry People. **Appendix A provides a draft of the application form and project plan to be submitted to HLF.**

2.0 The East of England Park Project

- 2.1 The East of England Park Project aims to regenerate Ness Point and the nearby green space, creating a visitor and community events and cultural heritage space. The project will achieve economic growth through increasing footfall and tourism in the area, whilst improving access, knowledge, participation and enjoyment of the area and its unique maritime heritage. The East of England Park project will also provide benefits to the community within the Harbour Ward, as the project will help build resilience and capacity within this community.
- 2.2 A major capital works project is currently underway at the East of England Park, with external funding from the Coastal Communities Fund (CCF). Waveney District Council obtained this funding for £980 000 in 2017, when the EoE park was in its’ ownership. Since 2017, WDC Regeneration Team has been working in partnership with the Lowestoft Town Council, as owner of the land, to implement the project, which is due for completion in December 2019.

3.0 Funding and Governance

- 3.1 When the project was initially developed, it was acknowledge that further external funding would need to be found in order to implement the physical heritage interpretation, sculpture and artwork at the site and therefore WDC Regeneration and Funding team put together a funding matrix to identify further potential funding sources.

**East of England Park is a working title, name to be determined by LTC*

- 3.2 Discussions were held during the development of the overall project with HLF where they had indicated this physical heritage interpretation work and heritage activity is something they would consider funding. The Heritage Lottery Fund has recently accepted an Expression of Interest and have invited the bid to a full stage application. The bid of £95,000 will cover the costs of physical interpretation (boards, sound posts, augmented reality - £59,250), as well as providing funding for heritage activity that will be based on the maritime heritage and will be carried out by our local creative partners "Poetry People". This type heritage activity will help promote the park as an events and cultural space (£35,750).
- 3.3 Waveney District Council will be the Accountable Body for the funding and therefore will own and manage the risks associated with the project. However the funding application is in partnership with Lowestoft Town Council as land owner and Poetry People as the partner for delivery of heritage activity. A Partnership Agreement will be set out responsibilities across the three partner organisations. A process of Governance is established through the existing East of England Project Steering Board. Lowestoft Town Council is the Chair of the Steering Group. WDC officers are experienced in management of HLF funding, with the high profile, HLF "Making Waves Together" Great Places project being managed within the WDC Economic Regeneration team.
- 3.4 Once this application has been processed, WDC Regeneration and Funding Team will look to Arts Council England to cover the art and sculpture aspects of the project.