



## Operational Officer Decision Record

Where the decision has a financial value of between £100k - £350k and does not have a **significant** impact on two or more wards

**1. Subject and details of the matter** (to include reasons for the decision and detail of any previous cabinet decision)

In July 2020, The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) solicited an application for a grant of £250,000 to co-ordinate and develop engagement with community heritage across North East Lincolnshire. A successful application was submitted in August 2020 which outlined activities to enable this to take place. This was fully approved in December 2020 following collaboration with National Lottery Heritage Fund to develop plans for delivery.

The programme other invests into arts, culture, and heritage in North East Lincolnshire such as the Cleethorpes Townscape programme, Grimsby Heritage Action Zone and Grimsby Creates.

A key element of the application centred on the development of a Heritage Network for North East Lincolnshire. The first meeting took place in April 2021 and has seen a further two meetings take place. Due to COVID restrictions these meetings have taken place virtually and have seen over 60 people attend. These have been developed and facilitated working in partnership with Lincolnshire Heritage.

The next stage of the programme is to support local organisations grow by providing seedcorn funding to develop new heritage projects.

A maximum of £150,000 from the £250,000 will be distributed to local heritage via a 'Heritage Starter Fund' which is intended to act as an 'enabler' to allow something to

happen. This could be development work on a project or research idea, funded expertise from a professional or to complete a specific developmental aim e.g., to formalise an organisation with a governance model and/or bank account.

It is anticipated that the grant will be used to provide the opportunity to develop an idea which can then be upscaled and taken forward as a larger project, eligible for funding in its own right from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The size of grants will range from £500 to £10,000 which is exclusively funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund. The application process, including the grant form has been co-designed with the support of Lincolnshire Heritage and members of the Heritage Network with the aim of the process to be accessible for organisations who may be new to applying for funding support.

## **2. Decision being taken**

Approval is being sought to

- a) Distribute up to £150,000 of National Lottery Heritage Fund grant money to North East Lincolnshire Heritage projects via the Heritage Starter Fund.
- b) Agree to the development of an independent panel to assess applications and award between £500 and £10,000 and make recommendations to NELC to support projects
- c) To delegate approval to the Strategic Lead for Culture to sign grant offer letters to offer those projects recommended for approval by the panel.

## **3. Anticipated outcome(s)/benefits**

Successful applications will engage with people of North East Lincolnshire, working with communities and new audiences, delivering inspirational ideas and opportunities to showcase North East Lincolnshire's wealth of heritage. Wider communities will be engaged with arts, culture and heritage than would normally be the case, particularly given that North East Lincolnshire is amongst the lowest in engagement levels in the country (32.5%).

In doing so, this will maintain momentum and improve the management of heritage in North East Lincolnshire and the maintenance of our human and physical heritage

assets. This will raise the profile of North East Lincolnshire's heritage and realise opportunities for economic and social benefit.

The organisations awarded with grants will also strengthen local partnership working and build local capacity, skills and experience in managing and delivering heritage-led projects.

#### **4. Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer when making the decision**

The Council could choose to not deliver the NEL Heritage Starter Fund. However, this would significantly undermine its reputation with NLHF, during an important period of delivery for NEL in showcasing our wealth of heritage assets and enabling projects in a low engagement area, building capacity for upscaled, larger bids.

A 'do nothing' option would also generate negative reputational impacts with local stakeholders in the culture and heritage sector who have been engaged extensively during the Heritage Network meetings with Heritage Lincolnshire.

The programme could be scaled back to reduce cost, but this would risk the work having less impact and being perceived as low quality by the NLHF and is not appropriate as dedicated revenue funds have been allocated for this project from NLHF.

The Council could fund this work itself from its own revenue budget, but this would mean other services would see reduced budgets and NELC have received dedicated revenue funds for this project from NLHF.

#### **5. Background documents considered** (web link to be included or copies of documents for publishing)

Information relating to National Lottery Heritage Fund can be seen here: [Strategic Funding Framework 2019–2024 | The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#). The outlines North East Lincolnshire as an Area of Focus. This is a priority area for NLHF given relatively low levels of investment and heritage engagement and high levels of deprivation.

**6. Does the taking of the decision include consideration of Exempt information? If yes, specify the relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A and the reasons**

No

**7. Details of any conflict of interest declared by any Cabinet Member who was consulted by the officer which relates to the decision (in respect of any declared conflict of interest, please provide a note of dispensation granted by the Council's Chief Executive)**

No conflicts of interest have been identified.

**8. Monitoring Officer Comments (Monitoring Officer or nominee)**

The decision and delegation sought appear to be consistent with a project of this nature.

The development of the grant offer letter for the Heritage Starter Fund will be supported by Legal Services colleagues. The Council will be concerned to ensure that all terms and conditions of the grant funding are adhered to.

The proposals illustrated above appear to be consistent with the expectations of the funder.

**9. Section 151 Officer Comments (Deputy S151 Officer or nominee)**

The total commitment of up to £150k will be met from NLHF revenue grant funding.

**10. Human Resource Comments (Head of People and Culture or nominee)**

The administration of the programme will be delivered by resources within the Economy and Growth Team, staffing costs to support this was approved within the application.

**11. Risk Assessment (in accordance with the Report Writing Guide)**

Failure to approve the grant application process will impact on the ability to award grants to prospective applicants and NELC's ability to distribute full grant allocation committed by NLHF. Failure to progress the scheme will have a negative impact on the overall engagement levels in heritage in North East Lincolnshire.

**12. If the decision links to a previous one taken by Cabinet, has the Cabinet Tracker been updated?**

N/A

**13. Decision Maker(s):**

Name: Sharon Wroot

Title: Executive Director Environment,  
Economy and Resources

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 24.08.21

**14. Consultation carried out with  
Portfolio Holder(s):**

Name: Councillor Callum Procter

Title: Portfolio Holder Economic  
Development, Housing and Tourism

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 25/08/2021