



## 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)

Through work with Heritage Lottery and our newly announced status as a Heritage Place, Environment have identified an opportunity to align their continued efforts with the environmental ambitions of the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and apply for grant funding to build the foundations to protect and enhance Cleethorpes' Saltmarsh.

This will be approached in phases with this decision relating to the initial funding bid and first phase; the creation of a new partnership between NELC and a broad range of stakeholders, the appointment of a Research and Engagement Officer and an additional Resort Officer to support the project, work to identify opportunities to enhance recreational space in and around Cleethorpes Boating Lake and improve visitor information and educational resources for the area and development of an Eco-Tourism Plan to promote designated features whilst encouraging economic growth.

A key project aim is to protect the Saltmarsh from damage, disturbance and decline and improve biodiversity by reducing recreational pressures on the area. This will be achieved by enhancing and promoting alternative recreational areas and will also realise the economic, social and health benefits of a high-quality natural environment.

The project has been approved by the Business Development Group and Assistant Directors in February 2024.

## 2. Decision being taken

That the Executive Director Place and Resources in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport applies by way of bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for an initial sum of £250,000 and the delivery of the first phase of the project as detailed above.

## 3. Anticipated outcome(s)/benefits

**A wider range of people involved in heritage** – The project will establish a new partnership approach to protecting and enhancing our natural environment, substantially increasing the range of people involved in heritage and engaging and consulting with the wider community.

**Improved resilience** - This partnership approach provides an opportunity for shared knowledge and expertise, increased resource, and greater local involvement, improving resilience.

**Our local area will be a better place to live, work or visit** – Enhancing and improving alternative recreational space not only reduces footfall and recreational pressure on the SSSI (improving the habitat condition) but provides attractive communal green space for communities and visitors to spend time in nature.

**Boosted local economy** – This project provides an opportunity to explore our potential to be an eco-tourism destination, linking in with other projects and improvements happening across Cleethorpes.

**Protecting the environment** – The project takes a multifaceted approach, which includes engagement, collaboration, engagement and alternative recreational space to protecting our unique natural environment.

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

**Do nothing** – Use existing Council budgets to deliver our environmental ambitions. This option would be limited in terms of resource and what could realistically be

achieved. It would solely meet our statutory obligations without the wider benefits the funding can bring.

**Submit our own funding bid** – deliver the project without adopting a partnership approach. We would not benefit from shared knowledge and expertise, increased resource, greater local involvement, and improved resilience. Funding providers also look more favourably on a partnership approach to projects, so we would be limiting our chances of a successful bid with this approach.

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable.

**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)**

Not applicable.

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

The above is consistent with the Council's stated aims and objectives and has received support through internal governance mechanisms.

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

Should the bid be successful then the scheme will be added to the Council's Capital Investment Programme, to be 100% funded from external grant.

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

There are no direct HR implications.

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

Project delivery with partner organisations is not without challenge and we need to ensure that each partner is committed to project delivery. Partners are invited based on existing excellent working relationships. Appropriate governance arrangements will be put in place and NELC will lead on recruitment, project management and project delivery, providing regular project updates to the Environment Board.

Reputationally, NELC as a landowner and a 'competent authority' we have a duty to uphold the ecological and environmental designations of sites with special designations for nature. Failure to manage and maintain those sites may result in prosecution. Any perceived negative environmental impacts resulting from regeneration of Cleethorpes and increased development may result in statutory and non-statutory consultees objecting to plans. We therefore want to mitigate that possibility through projects that can have a positive impact on the environment and reduce the recreational pressures to both habitats and wildlife.

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

Not applicable.

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

Name: Sharon Wroot

Title: Executive Director Place and Resources

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 23.04.24

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

Name: Cllr Stewart Swinburn

Title: Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024