

BOARD LED HLF LOTTERY PROPOSALS

Summary: To update the Executive Committee on the development of Board Led Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Proposals and changes at HLF.

Recommendations:

- (a) That the report be noted.**
- (b) That Committee Members encourage participation in the HLF consultation on their Strategic Framework from across the natural heritage sector.**

Officer Ref: Simon Smith Project Development and Business Planning Officer

Background

Introduction

1. The Board has pro-actively initiated the development of two proposals to the HLF; a landscape scale proposal based on the Evenlode and a historic heritage proposal based on Cotswolds Stone.

A landscape Scale Proposal

2. Throughout 2016 the Board undertook a scoping process to identify the preferred area for a HLF Landscape Partnerships proposal. This involved the development of proposals against a matrix for their assessment. Proposals were assessed through, two officer meetings and a workshop involving selected Board Members, followed up by a day of site visits undertaken by officers.
3. The preferred option that emerged from this process was a river valley landscape within the Evenlode catchment. Early in 2017 contact was made with the Evenlode Catchment Partnership and in April 2017 they held a workshop investigating the likely heritage, issues and projects that could be involved in a proposal.
4. There was no further progress until the autumn of 2017 when contact was re-established and the workshop notes sent. Next steps involve encouraging further thinking based on the workshop notes and drafting a project proposal. It is hoped that consensus on a project proposal to take to HLF will be achieved in the summer of 2018.

A Historic Heritage Proposal Based on Cotswolds Stone

5. In January 2018 an initial workshop was held to identify a preferred option for a Cotswolds historic heritage proposal to HLF. It was attended by George Lambrick, David Thackray, Hedley Ringrose, the Land Management Officer and the Project Development and Business Planning Officer. Possible themes for a proposal were examined in the light of our understanding of historic heritage and what HLF likes to fund.

6. Cotswolds stone emerged as the preferred theme and the workshop went on to investigate the possible scope of such a proposal. The heritage likely to be involved, possible activities and potential partners were all described. Workshop notes were circulated to participants with further comments received by the set deadline of the end of January.
7. As outlined at the workshop the next steps involve developing the notes and subsequent comments into a structured outline proposal and to taking this proposal to a wider audience of stakeholders at a second workshop. Depending on the outcome of this second workshop it is hoped to develop a consensus around a project proposal to take to HLF possibly in the summer of 2018.

Changes at the Heritage lottery Fund

8. HLF are receiving less income from lottery receipts and are and are embarking on a strategic review with a new funding framework opening in January 2019. In the light of this they have instituted a number of changes that will run up to the start of the new funding framework.
 - There will be no new rounds of targeted programmes (i.e. Landscape Partnerships, Parks for People or Townscape Heritage) in 2018. Landscapes parks and historic town centres can still apply through remaining HLF programmes.
 - They will fund Heritage Grants over £5m (major grants) in 2018, with decisions planned in April 2018 as usual (based on applications already submitted)
 - They will not fund new 'major grants' (Heritage Grants over £5m) in 2019, so there will be no application deadline in 2018
 - During the final quarter of the financial year - January to March 2019 - they will only be making Round Two awards; and Round One grants of up to £100,000.
9. HLF are currently consulting on their next strategic framework which will direct their grant giving for the period 2019-24. It is extremely important that the natural heritage sector fully engages in this process if we wish to access this source of funding in the future. The Project Development and Business Planning Officer will be co-ordinating a response on behalf of the Board. Board Members are requested to both submit individual responses and to encourage other appropriate organisations to respond. The deadline for responding is 22nd March 2018.

The consultation for organisations can be completed here
<http://surveys.comres.co.uk/wix/2/p1862857042.aspx>

A copy of the consultation questions can be downloaded here
<http://www.comresglobal.com/polls/heritage-lottery-fund-consultation/>

Individuals can also complete a survey here
<https://g4-emea.yougov.com/vmqcY5zMQDP8ys>

Impact on the Board's Proposals

10. The landscape scale proposal was intended to apply to the Landscape Partnerships Programme, this will no longer be possible and the application will have to be directed to the Heritage Grants Programme. This may provide greater flexibility in the projects design. The Landscape Partnerships Programme used to ring fence the delivery stage funding (round 2) when awarding the grant for the development stage (round 1). The Heritage Grants Programme does not do this making the second stage applications competitive. This increases the risk in developing an application.
11. As both proposals are still in the early stages of development and unlikely to ask for more than £5m the transitional changes should not affect them too much. Though we should remain mindful of the hiatus in significant round 1 awards from January to March 2019 and the proposed launch of a new funding framework in January 2019.
12. A good response from the natural heritage sector will help create a HLF strategic framework that will encourage and support the sort of proposals the Board would wish to take forward in the future.

Supporting Paper(s):

None