

## **EXTERNAL FUNDING CHALLENGE**

**Summary:** To invite discussion and comment on the draft funding plan and challenge for Board Members developed by the External Funding Working Group.

### **Recommendations:**

**(a) That comments on the draft funding plan and challenge for Board Members be invited both at the meeting and before the deadline of 1st October 2019.**

**(b) that a paper outlining the priority actions that Board members can take to support securing external funding be taken to the Board Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019.**

**Officer Ref:** Simon Smith, Project Development and Business Planning Officer

**Member Ref:** This paper will be presented by Andy Parsons on behalf of the External Funding Working Group.

### **Background**

#### Progress to date

1. The remit of the External Funding Working Group as revised at the Executive Committee in April 2019 contains;
  - To review progress of major project proposals including the two current Expressions of Interest to the NLHF.
  - To review the various methods used by the Board to secure funding and to develop a strategic approach including necessary structures.
  - To support more entrepreneurial activities and/or the development of enterprises in support of the Board's work
  - To support efforts to bring in external funding by all involved with the Board

The first point is dealt with through the two papers on the project proposals considered by the Executive Committee in April 2019 and May 2019 along with the bids update reported to the Executive Committee as a standing item. This paper focusses on the remaining points. One of the ways the Working Group can support the final point is to deliver a challenge to Board Members encouraging them to help secure funding and showing them how.

2. The group has met 6 times since June 2018. Work has included generating and reviewing ideas for income generation and challenging the Planning and Infrastructure Working Group to look closer at how income can be generated

from their area. This resulted in a review of pre-application advice charges and a fresh look at accessing Parish Council precept funds for Board projects.

3. At its March 2019 meeting the group was joined by a funding consultant with extensive experience of developing funding strategies for a wide range of organisations. This resulted in a format for a funding strategy and plan which was populated using the Board's existing work programme. Subsequent meetings refined this further and the group also looked at how other organisations approach fundraising. The result is a draft funding plan; **Appendix 'A'**.

#### A Single Business Planning Process

4. In order to avoid parallel and potentially contradictory processes any additional work or changes to workloads emerging from this process will be integrated into the Board's business planning through the detailed work programme. This must include a consideration of the impact on existing staff and resources. To facilitate this the draft funding plan is based upon and mirrors the structure of this work programme.

#### A Challenge for Board Members

5. The funding plan helps to identify what Board members can do to support income generation across a range of Board projects. This has been combined with named officer contacts and details of helpful resources to create a challenge to Board members from the Working Group; **Appendix 'B'**

#### Next Steps

6. The Working Group will consider feedback from the Executive Committee and officers at its next meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019. A paper will then be prepared for the Board meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019.
7. The Working Group will continue to develop and monitor the funding plan with new ideas and solutions to securing funding also being taken forward through the business plan.
8. If Board members find the challenge paper helpful it could be refreshed on an annual basis.

#### **Supporting Papers:**

**Appendix 'A' - Funding Plan**

**Appendix 'B' - Challenge to Board Members**