

 <p>LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY</p> <p>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</p> <p>22 JUNE 2017 AT 11:00</p>	<p><u>Agenda Item No:</u></p> <p>7</p> <p><u>Report No:</u></p> <p>E/506/17</p>
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**PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION TO THE
STORT VALLEY PARTNERSHIP**

Presented by the Head of Planning and Strategic Partnerships

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Authority has been a member of the Lea Catchment Nature Improvement Area Partnership since its formation in 2012. In 2014 the group bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for landscape and habitat improvements across a large part of Hertfordshire and Essex but focussed on the Regional Park. Although the bid was unsuccessful officers have continued to work with the Partnership and a further bid for the Stort Meadowlands project is now under consideration. This report is seeking a commitment of £7,000 from the Authority's partnership budget to support this new bid.

RECOMMENDATION

Members Approve: (1) a commitment to the development phase of the Stort Meadowlands Landscape Partnership of £7,000.

BACKGROUND

- 1 The Authority has been a member of the Lea Catchment Nature Improvement Area Partnership since its formation in 2012. In 2014 the Partnership bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for landscape and habitat improvements across a large part of Hertfordshire and Essex, encompassing the Regional Park. The geography of the bid area was extensive and although it included a number of individual projects it was unsuccessful because of the wide geographical area and lack of unifying theme.

- 2 The Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust is leading on the development of the bid for the Stort Meadowlands Landscape Partnership and would be the Accountable Body with the Authority as one of several delivery partners. The Authority has already contributed £3,000 from the Authority's 2016-17 budget for some initial scoping work.

- 3 The importance of partnership working is recognised in the Park Development Framework (PDF) Vision, Aims and Principles (2010). Finance and Audit Committee agreed a policy framework for how the Authority manages

partnerships in June 2008. This requires that the Authority's partnerships are consistent with the delivery of its strategic aims.

SCOPE OF THE CURRENT BID

- 4 The Stort Meadowlands Landscape Partnership scheme includes a smaller area than the original bid, allowing for a more focussed approach which will allow for a clearer identity on the outcomes which it is seeking to achieve. Appendix A to this report includes a map of the proposed area. This area includes a section of the Regional Park extending eastwards from the confluence of the Stort with the Lee at Fielde's Weir and projects are likely to be focussed on improvement to habitat and landscape of those areas within the Authority's ownership including Glen Faba and at Dobbs Weir. In addition the area's visitor infrastructure including car parks, footpaths and interpretation could be improved.
- 5 A stage 1 project outline was submitted to the HLF at the end of May 2017. Work has already commenced involving consultation with partners, community groups and delivery bodies. If the bid is successful work will commence in autumn 2017 with the preparation of draft consultancy bids and work schedules. The costing element is for a 'development phase' of £335,000 of which the bid request is for £237,000; requiring a total of £98,000 in contributions. Currently £51,000 has been committed through 'in kind' contributions and £24,000 in financial allocations. Presently there is an anticipated delivery phase costs of £1.98m of which £600,000 would be from partner contributions.
- 6 If successful the development phase would commence in autumn 2017 and last until summer 2019 with the submission of the bid for the delivery phase.

APPRAISAL

- 7 The purpose of the bid would be compliant with the Authority's adopted Partnership Framework. The Authority's statutory purpose defined under section 12 of the Lee Valley Regional Park Act 1966 makes reference to 'nature'. Further, the adopted PDF includes a strategic aim focussed on biodiversity: 'A Park which delivers a high quality biodiversity resource for the Region'. A series of adopted and draft proposals for improvements to habitats, landscape and visitor infrastructure for this area of the Regional Park are included in the adopted Park Plan (2000) and draft proposals in the PDF could be supported by the project.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8 There are no environmental implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9 The contribution of £7,000 would be made from the Authority's partnership funds for 2017-18.

HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 10 There are no human resource implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11 There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 12 The risks inherent in a project of this nature would be managed by the accountable body.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 13 There are no equality implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

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APPENDIX ATTACHED

Appendix A Map

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

PDF Park Development Framework
HLF Heritage Lottery Fund



16/12/2016

-  New Project Boundary
-  Start Project Parishes

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