

Agenda Item No.4

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP, CULTURE
AND TOURISM**

24 October 2019

Report of the Executive Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**TRENT VALLEY VISION – NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE HORIZON
AWARDS**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek retrospective approval for Derbyshire County Council, on behalf of the D2N2 (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), to submit an Expression of Interest to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for its Heritage Horizons Awards.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The NLHF has recently launched the Heritage Horizon Awards for grants of £5 million and over. The concept behind the award is 'Backing big ideas, unlocking possibilities'. The NLHF is looking for projects that are transformative, innovative and collaborative and meet its strategic priorities of 'landscape and nature' and 'heritage at risk'.

Projects should demonstrate clear and ambitious plans that would bring about positive changes and benefits for people, places and wider heritage. In order to bid for the Award, an Expression of Interest was required to be submitted to the NLHF by 11 October 2019. The NLHF will notify shortlisted projects by December 2019, inviting them to submit an application for development phase funding by August 2020.

If the Trent Valley Vision project is shortlisted, then a development phase application would need to be submitted by 31 August 2020. Applicants must contribute at least 10% of the costs of the development phase and 10% of the costs of the delivery phase. The NLHF describes contributions as "partnership funding" and it can be made up of cash, non-cash contributions, volunteer time or a combination of all of these.

The Trent Valley Vision is an environmental-led regeneration initiative aimed at transforming the landscape of the Trent Valley over a 50 year period to generate a £multi-billion leisure and recreation economy at the heart of England.

An economic study of the Trent Valley within Derbyshire concluded that for the period 2020 to 2050, the benefits of the landscape-led Vision are estimated to be:

- £16 billion of economic benefits.
- £450 million of social and environmental benefits.

The Vision would take advantage of ongoing gravel extraction, projected housing growth and new infrastructure projects. It would create a more robust, attractive and multi-functional landscape character of interlocking water bodies, wetlands and woodland. This new landscape would be designed and planned to mitigate the adverse effects of mineral extraction and housing growth, and create greater environmental capacity to both absorb and facilitate further development.

The area would become an attractive setting for high quality, new housing development with direct access to new and enhanced Green Infrastructure networks.

The Vision would build on the Valley's natural and cultural heritage and its natural capital. The new landscape would retain, integrate and protect the best and most significant elements of the existing landscape to provide a range of recreational and leisure opportunities.

The new landscape would be recognised by residents and businesses alike, as an invaluable resource, an attraction and a valued asset, making the Valley a desirable location in which to live, work, play and invest.

The Vision would be a strategic environmental response similar to the Northern Forest being developed by the Northern Powerhouse in response to the Government's recently published Industrial Strategy and 25 year Environment Plan.

The economic assessment, which was commissioned by Derbyshire County Council for the Derbyshire component of the Trent Valley only, identified that by 2050, the additional economic benefits of following a coordinated Vision, over an uncoordinated approach, could be £2.8 billion per year. There could also be an additional £80 million per year in social and environmental benefits. The returns on investing in a coordinated approach are likely to be even higher for the Trent Valley across a wider project area than Derbyshire.

The economic assessment substantiated that there are clear economic, as well as environmental and social reasons to produce a Vision to coordinate the impacts and change that are going to happen in the Trent Valley. However, while there is an increasing consensus for the need for a Vision, it has been difficult to secure the funding to develop the Vision that will steer change and to identify and deliver the first phase of projects.

The NLHF's Heritage Horizons Awards appear to perfectly align with the aspirations of the Trent Valley Vision and the monies available through the grant scheme would be sufficient to develop a comprehensive framework/masterplan for the Trent Valley across Derbyshire, Leicester and Nottinghamshire; develop a delivery and management structure; and identify and contribute to the delivery of the Vision's first phase.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The minimum grant application is £5 million. The NLHF requires a minimum of 10% match funding. While the match can be cash, non-cash contributions, volunteer time or a combination of all of these, any application is likely to be considered more favourably the greater the level of match, particularly cash match.

The proposed project boundary includes Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire counties, albeit a small part of Leicestershire. As well as the three County Councils, there are also the two city authorities of Derby and Nottingham and at least seven local authorities. The project boundary is extensively in the D2N2 LEP area with a small part in the Leicester and Leicestershire LEPs area. The boundary could also include a part of Lincolnshire which is within the West Lindsey District Council administrative area.

The project would be over five to seven years. While £500,000 is a significant amount of match funding, this would be considerably more manageable over the project timeframe and if distributed between all of the partner local authorities and LEPs highlighted above. A firm match funding agreement would need to be negotiated and in place as part of the development phase application.

(4) **Human Resources Considerations** The Expression of Interest form has already been drafted by the Conservation, Heritage and Design Service ready for submission. If the NLHF selects the Trent Valley Vision, it will fund circa 90% of the development phase costs. This is likely to include at least 1 full time equivalent officer.

(4) **Social Value Considerations** The Trent Valley Vision initiative is to create a highly functioning landscape that works hard for the environment, the economy and community. The outcomes for the Vision will create a beautiful landscape for the existing and new communities of the Trent Valley providing recreation and health and wellbeing benefits, as well as employment opportunities. Through the delivery of the NLHF's Awards Scheme, training opportunities will be available for local communities.

Greater Natural Capital will be delivered in the Trent Valley through the Vision, which in turn will give greater robustness to the eco-system services that the Natural Capital supports.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

(5) **Key Decision** No.

(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(7) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That the Cabinet Member retrospectively approves that Derbyshire County Council submitted, on behalf of the D2N2 (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) Local Enterprise Partnership, an Expression of Interest to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for its Heritage Horizons Awards.

Mike Ashworth
Executive Director – Economy, Transport and Environment