



REPORT TO:	Council
DATE:	Thursday, 2nd March 2023
SUBJECT:	Spalding Reconnected: Historic Town and Riverside – National Lottery Heritage Fund Grant Acceptance
PURPOSE:	The purpose of this report is to secure Council approval for acceptance of a National Lottery Heritage Fund award of £233,163 that will provide funding in support of the Spalding Reconnected: Historic Town & Riverside scheme, and to agree the creation of the budget to fund the scheme.
KEY DECISION:	No
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Cllr Rodney Grocock, Portfolio Holder for Assets & Planning (and Spalding Town Centre Improvement Plan lead member)
REPORT OF:	Matthew Hogan, AD - Strategic Growth and Development
REPORT AUTHOR:	John Mullen, External Funding Officer
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Spalding Castle; Spalding Monkshouse; Spalding St John's; Spalding St Mary's; Spalding St Paul's; Spalding Wygate;
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

This report provides the detail of a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant award of £233,163 and seeks Council approval for actions required to accept the Grant in order to enable the delivery of the Spalding Reconnected: Historic Town and Riverside scheme. The project has been developed through the Spalding Town Centre Improvement Plan Steering Group, which consists of members and partners with an interest in the town.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council provide agreement to formally accept the National Lottery Heritage Fund grant award of £233,163 for the Spalding Reconnected: Historic Town and Riverside project.

2. That delegated authority is approved for the Assistant Director for Strategic Growth and Development to enter into grant agreement with the National Lottery Heritage Fund in conjunction with the lead Portfolio Holder (Councillor Grocock).

3. That the necessary budgetary amendments are made in respect of the grant award and the associated funding arrangements.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To seek Council approval for actions required to accept the Grant in order to enable the delivery of the Spalding Reconnected: Historic Town and Riverside scheme

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Do nothing – The option to do nothing, although open, would mean that the investment priorities that the scheme looks to progress and sit under the auspices of the Spalding Town Centre Improvement Programme would not be delivered, or met.

Recommended Decision - Accept Grant support from National Lottery Heritage Scheme in order for the Spalding Reconnected: Historic Town & Riverside project to proceed.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Council have provided the oversight and external funding management for the submission of the application for funding, (as well as proposed 5% match funding from the Spalding Town Centre Improvement Programme) to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and are named responsible body to manage the grant funding and work with partners in the delivery of the project.

2. REPORT

2.1 Background

2.2 A key corporate priority of South Holland District Council and the wider SELCP relates to supporting its market towns and supporting their high streets. In November 2019 the Council committed to develop a programme of activity to support improvements to Spalding and Holbeach Town Centres, supported by a three-year budget of £500,000 split equally between the town towns.

2.3 At the same time, the council committed to the creation of a Town Centre Improvement Plan Co-Ordinator, funded for a period of three years through the £500,000 budget, to support with co-ordinating the programmes of activity for both towns. The council also approved a governance structure for the programme, focused around a Town Centre Improvement Plan Steering Group for each town, coupled with oversight by an Executive Member lead for each place. For Spalding that executive member lead sits with Cllr Rodney Grocock, and for Holbeach Cllr Nick Worth. The programme is also supported by the council's External Funding Officer.

- 2.4 A key aim of the TCIP approach has been to utilise council funds and relationships with partners to leverage in additional funds that can support the town centre. The Spalding Reconnected: Historic Town and Riverside is an example of one such project, where a range of partners have come together to deliver an initiative for the town, utilising an element of council funds to leverage in additional funds to support town centre activity. The project builds upon the recent success of the National Portfolio Organisation application for Ayscoughfee Hall (which utilised TCIP funds to leverage in £2m in Arts Council Funding to support with cultural activity designed to support with footfall into the town), and a current live funding application to the Arts Council for investment in public art to improve Abbey Passage.
- 2.5 The Spalding Reconnected: Historic Town and Riverside project has been developed through the Town Centre Improvement Plan group. Its central aim is to support the town centre and the connection with the River Welland through investment in wayfinding and heritage schemes. The project is underpinned by £233,163 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, coupled with £12,500 in council match funding from the Spalding element of the Town Centre Improvement Plan fund. The project is also supported by contributions of in-kind support from Transported Arts, Heritage Lincolnshire, East Mercia Rivers Trust and Lincolnshire County Council.
- 2.6 **REPORT DETAIL**
- 2.7 The acceptance of the National Lottery Heritage Fund grant supports the following project delivery elements:
- 2.8 A co-ordinated scheme of street based waymarking, that includes pedestrian signage and heritage information points based on the town's unique historic past that creates new opportunities to reconnect the town's past and present importance as an historic settlement and key economic centre for the area. The scheme will encourage people to explore and venture into and around the town's significant points of interest and to understand the heritage through a mix of freestanding visual information points creating new types of experiences for shoppers and visitor. The approach to the project will seek to engage with the community, business and representatives from the public, private and voluntary sectors, working alongside professionals to design and implement the scheme.
- 2.9 The delivery of a co-created Heritage Strategy for Spalding written with local communities. The strategy will provide a vision for natural and built heritage including what different communities value about their place and an action plan funded by the Lottery will provide the starting point for all future heritage related activities in the town. Such a strategy will be important in terms of underpinning future funding applications linked to heritage investment in the town.
- 2.10 Creation of a riverside art and heritage trail to encourage understanding of the importance and connection with the town's past and future. This element will be developed and delivered as an outcome of local consultation on the Spalding Reconnected project, therefore viewed as a package of measures to create interest and engagement with the

town centre and riverside through exploring and promoting trails and heritage-based art installations.

- 2.11** Community river-based environment engagement activities focused on town's historic natural environment within and surrounding the river and its wildlife corridor involving young people and schools to encourage and develop a legacy of interest and knowledge of this major asset. For example, the river-based activities, in consultation with key agencies, will develop interest in the river environment in the schools and wider community and from there establish enhanced green areas for flora and fauna to thrive that will also improve the look and future appeal of the riverside area.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1** The report provides the background and funding detail that seeks Council support of a recommendation to provide authority to formally accept a £233,163 grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The acceptance of the grant support from the Lottery will secure 95% funding based on a total project cost of £245,633. The grant award will be supplemented by £12,500 being provided by the council and Town Centre Improvement Plan funds. The project being led in partnership between the Council and Heritage Lincolnshire to deliver multiple projects and key outcomes in support of Spalding Town Centre Improvement Programme.

4. EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

- 4.1** The benefits associated with this project are as follows;
- £233,163 in external funding, leveraged into the district using 5% match funds from the council, to support heritage based investment into the town
 - A package of investment which will support and improve the experience of the town centre for both visitors and local residents alike
 - Through this project, the potential to build a longer-term relationship with a strategic funding body (that being the National Lottery Heritage Fund), with whom there is potential to develop and deliver future investment into the town and the wider district
 - Through the partners involved in the project, notably Heritage Lincolnshire, the potential to build a longer-term relationship with local organisations that can bring skills, expertise and support to the town and the wider district.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

- 5.1.1** The report recommendation support the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership's wider aims to support its town centre, and develop strategic relationships with partner with whom there is potential for a long term strategic benefit.

5.2 CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 5.2.1** The submission of the Investment Plan and securing the external funding will meet the Corporate Priorities to deliver key outcomes under People and Prosperity; that in turn will provide opportunity for the Council to work with local businesses and community of

Spalding to plan for future growth and potential new investment in the town's infrastructure and commercial areas.

5.3 STAFFING

5.3.1 Project management will be delivered through Heritage Lincolnshire project staff, in formal agreement with the Council. Therefore, project management responsibilities as well as undertaking an agreed process for recovery of costs through the grant funding (full cost recovery) has been submitted to the Lottery through the grant application process, in preparation for project delivery requirements and will now form part of the terms and conditions for delivery of the scheme.

5.4 CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.4.1 None

5.5 DATA PROTECTION

5.5.1 None

5.6 FINANCIAL

5.6.1 The report contains a number of financial implications. These include the acceptance of £233,163 in funds from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, matched with £12,500 in investment from the Spalding Town Centre Improvement Plan fund, to provide an overall project envelope of £245,663

5.7 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.7.1 The project will be delivered through Heritage Lincolnshire, who have considerable experience of delivering similar projects elsewhere in Lincolnshire. Heritage Lincolnshire's approach to project risk management will be employed in the delivery of the project.

5.8 STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

5.8.1 The project has been developed in conjunction with a range of partners, notably Heritage Lincolnshire, East Mercia Rivers Trust and Lincolnshire County Council. In terms of project delivery, the project will seek to bring about substantial community engagement in the delivery of the project, which will be co-ordinated through Heritage Lincolnshire as our delivery partner.

5.9 REPUTATION

5.9.1 A key strategic consideration associated with this project is the potential to utilise and to further develop the council's reputation as a delivery partner with a strategic fund, that being the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

5.10 CONTRACTS

5.10.1 The report recommendations carry contractual obligations; in that they will see the authority enter into a grant agreement with the National Lottery Heritage Fund

5.11 CRIME AND DISORDER

5.11.1 None

5.12 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

5.12.1 None

5.13 HEALTH AND WELL BEING

5.13.1 The project is anticipated to have a positive impact of the health and wellbeing of residents, in that the project will be delivered through activities directed at engaging with the community and businesses in town centre areas to improve awareness and access to key locations. This engagement will develop interest and activity in the built and natural environment.

5.14 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

5.14.1 The Framework references connecting culture to the natural environment through projects and infrastructure and positioning this Framework as a vital tool for sustainable and responsible cultural development. Therefore, aligning the Framework with the project will be considered in relation to the delivery of the scheme and in acceptance of the terms and conditions of grant approval.

5.15 LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

5.15.1 *Wellbeing: By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.* *Pride in Place: By 2030, pride in place, such as people’s satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.*

MISSIONS	
This paper contributes to the follow Missions outlined in the Government’s Levelling Up White paper.	
Education	By 2030, the number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.
Skills	By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.
Health	By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by 5 years.
Wellbeing	By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
Pride in Place	By 2030, pride in place, such as people’s satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.

6. ACRONYMS

6.1 NLHF – National Lottery Heritage Fund

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body

REPORT APPROVAL

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