



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Tropical Ravine Heritage Grant Application
Date:	13 January 2010
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Ian Nuttall, Funding and Monitoring Officer

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Parks and Leisure Committee agreed at its meeting on 12 February 2009 to commence a process to submit an application for financial support to refurbish the</p> <p>As outlined in the report to Members at the September 2010 meeting of the Parks and Leisure Committee, the department has undertaken work in preparation for the submission of a first round application to the Heritage Lottery Fund's (HLF) Heritage Grant programme to fund a project in Botanic Gardens which will focus on restoration of the Tropical Ravine, with associated programming in line with HLF's objectives.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>Following submission of a pre-application earlier this year, various tasks have been undertaken towards completion of a first round application to the Heritage Grant programme. In particular, the services of a specialist architectural consultancy have been employed to complete various activities including a condition survey and identification of appropriate options for capital works which would allow restoration of the ravine and facilitate learning and participation activities. In addition, discussions have been undertaken with Queen's University, the Ulster Museum, the Lyric Theatre, and the Friends of Botanic Gardens – as key local stakeholders. Throughout the process there has been ongoing communication with HLF in order to ensure that project proposals are in line with HLF's objectives.</p>

	<p>At this stage, it is proposed that the project would, in summary, include the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of a new entrance, lobby, lift and stairs at the lower end of the building, and creation of a new upper entrance lobby including orientation and display space/group room at the upper end of building; - Construction of centrally suspended high level maintenance/viewing walkway; - Replacement of the roof using modern technology whilst recreating original features; - Development of suitable interpretation and physical linkages within the Gardens; and - Delivery of a programme of education and community involvement activities delivered in partnership with key stakeholders. <p>It is expected that a first round application would be made in February 2011. Should this be successful, full application development would take place over the following 18 months to two years, during which time detailed project plans and costs would be established and proposals would be subject to the Council's Gates Review process (a preliminary Strategic Business Case has been submitted) and economic appraisal.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> Whilst final cost estimates have yet to be confirmed, a likely total project cost of around £5m is expected. Whilst an element of the required partnership funding would be provided 'in kind', including management time and ongoing maintenance costs, it is proposed that the Council would contribute approximately £1.25m from the Capital Programme. This would be subject to Gates Review and approval by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There will be no additional human resources required at this stage.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None at this stage.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	<p>There are no implications at this stage. However, should the application progress, equality and good relations factors will be taken into account in the development of proposals.</p>

5	Recommendations
	<p>Committee is asked to note the progress that has been made on the completion of and submission of the proposed first round Heritage Grant application.</p>

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6	Decision Tracking
	June 2011 Committee – outcome of the first round Heritage Grant application.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	HLF – Heritage Lottery Fund

8	Documents Attached
	None.