



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Tropical Ravine – Award of Heritage Grant Round 1 Pass
<b>Date:</b>	12 April 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ian Nuttall, Project Officer

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>Following initial rejection in May 2011, a first round application was re-submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) on 19 December 2011 for a Heritage Grant to restore the Tropical Ravine, and deliver associated programming in line with HLF's objectives.</p> <p>The application, developed over a period of two years, was for a grant of £2,231,900 towards a total project cost of £3,761,900, requiring a partnership contribution by the Council of £1,530,000 (£1,500,000 to come from the Capital Programme and £30,000 from spend on the increased costs of future maintenance estimated to arise from the project).</p> <p>In addition, the application requested a development grant of £115,000 towards projected costs of £127,786 required to fund preparation of the second round (final) submission.</p> <p>In summary, the application proposed capital works including provision of a new roofing system, restoration of internal and external features, and enhanced access, and programming in partnership with local stakeholders, including educational activities and events.</p>

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>The application was considered by HLF's Trustees at their national board meeting on 27 March 2012 when it was awarded a first round pass. This</p>

	<p>was achieved in the face of competition from other large scale applications from across the UK. Whilst this does not guarantee that the Council will receive a final grant, it does mean that HLF believes that the project has potential to deliver high-quality benefits and value for Lottery money, and wishes to have the opportunity to assess the proposals in more detail at the second round.</p> <p>Redevelopment of the Tropical Ravine is a specific project listed in the Council's <i>Investment Programme 2012-2015</i>. Should the final grant be awarded, this will contribute directly to the Council's key aims for physical investment, as set out in the Programme.</p> <p>HLF has also awarded the Council the full £115,000 development grant requested. Once formal permission has been granted by HLF to proceed, officers will commence work on the development phase of the application, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of design work to RIBA Stage D;</li> <li>- Development of an Integrated Conservation Management Plan;</li> <li>- Audience development planning and development of an Interpretive Plan;</li> <li>- Detailed research including heritage and technical botanical aspects of the plant collection and the history of the Ravine;</li> <li>- Stakeholder consultation on proposals;</li> <li>- Agreement and scoping of partnership programming;</li> <li>- Training needs analysis and development of a training plan;</li> <li>- Detailed costing and financial planning; and</li> <li>- Communication planning.</li> </ul> <p>Officers aim to complete the development phase within six to nine months, for submission to HLF for final consideration. Should the second round application be successful, it is expected that project delivery would begin in early 2013, with completion of capital works over the following 24 months and delivery of programming activities thereafter.</p>
--	---

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial</u> A partnership contribution of approximately £13,000 towards application development costs will be necessary, for which provision has been made in 2012/13 revenue budget estimates.</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>

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
	There are no implications at this stage. However, Equality and Good Relations factors will be taken into account in the development of the project.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	Committee is asked to note the contents of this update report.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	December 2012 Committee – progress on/outcome of the second round Heritage Grant application re-submission.

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	HLF – Heritage Lottery Fund RIBA – Royal Institute of British Architects.

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None