



Subject:	Expression of Interest to the Future Parks Accelerator Fund (A Heritage Lottery and National Trust Joint Venture)
Date:	6 th November 2018
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Director of Neighbourhood Services

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of a potential funding opportunity for a proposed enhancement project in our parks and open spaces and to seek Members' approval to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) by midday 19th November 2018 to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the Future Parks Accelerator (FPA).
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">approve the submission of an expression of interest by the deadline of 19 November 2018 and, if successful, to agree that officers progress and submit a full

	funding application (subject to council ratification and agreement with the Director of Finance & Resources on budgetary impact).
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Future Parks Accelerator (FPA) is available to owners and managers of public parks and green spaces throughout the UK. It is a new national initiative and a joint venture between HLF and The National Trust, enabling 5 to 8 places to develop ambitious solutions to secure and enhance the future of public parks and green spaces. This accelerator fund is aimed at supporting innovative projects and applicants can apply for financial support of between £250k and £1million pounds.</p>
3.2	<p>Our proposed enhancement project focuses on a City Wide Scale Project to enhance BCC sites for biodiversity whilst ensuring community involvement and buy in. Activities will be undertaken across the city and we will aim not only to involve existing park users but engage with new groups and communities to shape their local areas. A key focus will be on health and wellbeing, physical activity and participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals could include habitat management for pollinators which can include both semi-natural areas and horticultural features. • Horticulture improvements such as scoping alternative means of working for example around pesticide usage • Restoration of habitats including eg hedgerows, woodland, wetlands, species rich grasslands etc. • All proposals will be linked to upskilling staff and community groups in areas such as recording species and habitat management. • Events programme to engage and enthuse Belfast rate payers
3.3	<p>This proposal aligns to the Belfast Agenda's Living Here priority to make Belfast a great place to live, with good houses, excellent local facilities and open spaces, health and safe neighbourhoods. Equally, it also supports the Future Parks Accelerator aim of promoting a step-change in how people engage with their parks in order to maximise public benefit, local potential and innovation.</p>
3.4	<p>Following receipt of an EOI the funders will make an initial judgment on whether the idea demonstrates potential to meet the FPA funding criteria, achieve their outcomes and is in line with the published aims and aspirations of the FPA. They will then decide whether to</p>

3.5	<p>invite a full application form around the 26 November 2018 (times and specific submission date to be confirmed by the funder). The funders will not invite or assess full application forms from everyone who submits an Expression of Interest.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Potential applicants are asked to contribute 10% towards the costs of their project to demonstrate commitment. This is described as partnership funding and can be made up of cash, non-cash contributions including staff and volunteer time or a combination of all of these. However, some partnership funding must be from the applicant organisations resources. It is anticipated costs will be found from within the existing Departmental budget and further details will be brought to Members in due course for agreement.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 - Future Parks Accelerator Guidance for Applicants