

Present: Councillor Ric Metcalfe (*in the Chair*),
Councillor Donald Nannestad, Councillor Chris Burke,
Councillor Sue Burke, Councillor Bob Bushell and
Councillor Neil Murray

Apologies for Absence: None.

103. Confirmation of Minutes - 20 March 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2023 be confirmed.

104. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

105. HR Policies

Purpose of Report

To provide Executive with an overview of the proposed changes to three HR Policies, namely:

- Acting Up Policy
- Secondment Policy
- Grievance Policy

Decision

That the policy changes be approved, subject to an amendment to the Grievance Policy extending the appeal timescale to 10 days.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

Reasons for the Decision

Human Resources had reviewed the above policies; the report provided a summary of the proposed changes.

The proposed changes to the Acting Up and Secondment Policies had been discussed with Unions during local HR and Trade Union meetings, and Unions were supportive of the changes.

The proposed changes to the Grievance policy had also been discussed with Unions, and on the whole unions were supportive of the changes outlined within the officers' report.

Unions had requested that the appeal time be extended from five days to ten days. Unions felt this would ensure that employees had more time to consider if they wished to appeal or not, and allow for additional time if an employee was absent etc. This may also reduce the number of appeals.

106. Lincoln's Green Museum

Purpose of Report

To draw to Members' attention a bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which if successful would enable a three-year programme of community engagement across our heritage parks and open spaces.

Decision

The bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund be supported and if successful, acceptance of the funding and the related Terms and Conditions be delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Remarkable Place.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

Reasons for the Decision

In recent years, the Council had seen the significant benefits to people, our communities and the park, of having a focused and resourced activity plan centred on the Boutham Park Lake Restoration. This had been supported by existing permanent staff including the Volunteer Coordinator and the Conservation Ranger (Education and Promotion), but led by the Community Engagement Officer, a post funded by the Boutham Park Lake Restoration Project. The outcomes in terms of health and wellbeing, positive engagement in our parks, building community, skills and the many benefits related to volunteering had been witnessed, evidenced and recorded as a part of the formal evaluation of that project.

The project was due to end in July 2023. Officers had endeavoured to ensure the sustainability of activities post project, wherever possible, and the impacts of the project in terms of capital works and activities would be felt for many years to come.

However, it would not be possible to continue with the same level of focussed activities without dedicated staff and budget. This, coupled with a need to broaden community engagement across the city's open spaces, had led to the proposed project 'Lincoln's Green Museum.'

The benefits of spending time in well-managed green spaces were well documented. Our public open spaces were free to use, available to all, places to destress and unwind, to play and exercise, to meet people, to walk the dog, to enjoy nature, to enjoy events, to learn more about and build appreciation of our natural environment, to volunteer, building skills, confidence and employability.

For our heritage open spaces, the benefits were multiplied: heritage promoted personal and community wellbeing, it gave a sense of place and identity, it provided links to the past, a sense of perspective and a better understanding of today.

As custodians of these important assets, we were in the unique position of being able to encourage people to use and enjoy these places, and in so doing, to build

on our wider understanding of them, thus helping in our management and maintenance decision. This was an opportunity to curate our heritage before it was degraded or even lost, gathering memories and information into an online publicly accessible archive.

The programme of activities would be carefully designed, flexible and constantly evaluated, so that opportunities to engage with a broad range of people were maximised. It would seek to understand barriers to engagement and to break them down, with the aim of involving people who would not normally visit these places or engage in heritage related activities.

The total value of the project was £299,925. In addition to the £249,925 requested from the NLHF, a further (equivalent value of) £35,000 would be provided through volunteer works and in-kind contributions, and £15,000 would be found through other external funding. That £15,000 if not achieved by external funding, would be found from grounds maintenance budgets over the duration of the project.

The project would run for three years, with the new Community Engagement Officer post leading on activities and evaluation, supported by a part time support officer, and answering to the Community Services Manager. It is hoped that, if successful, the project would start in the summer of 2023.