

**NFNPA RAPC 315/16**

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**RESOURCES, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE – 21 NOVEMBER 2016**

**HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND – KICK THE DUST YOUTH PROGRAMME**

**Report by:** Jim Mitchell, Interpretation Officer

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has launched a new £10million pilot programme aimed at encouraging the heritage and youth sectors to explore new ways of working with young people. With the window for registering an interest in applying closing in December, this paper seeks to outline to Members what could be achieved and asks for approval to proceed with an application to the programme.

**2. Kick the Dust opportunities**

2.1 Launched at the end of September 2016, Kick the Dust supports the Government's Culture White Paper priority to involve young people more effectively in the UK's culture. The fund builds on the success of the HLF's Young Roots programme by supporting larger-scale, longer-term projects that encourage youth and heritage organisations to work together to make heritage relevant and inclusive for 11-25 year olds.

2.2 Grants of £500,000 to £1million are available towards projects taking place over 3-5 years. Projects must be delivered by a consortium of three or more organisations and should be focused on meeting the needs and interests of young people as well as building the skills and confidence of heritage organisations to continue engagement in the future.

2.3 Officers are considering submitting an application to Kick the Dust to help deliver the Authority's objectives associated with connecting young people with heritage. These include enabling young people from in and around the New Forest to engage in and benefit from the special qualities of the National Park. The Partnership Plan has a priority action to help young people become more involved in the National Park (LC9) by removing barriers and providing new opportunities; Kick the Dust funding would assist the Authority and partner organisations in achieving this.

2.4 A range of two-way opportunities would be possible: for young people to engage and for organisations to learn from young people. Initial thinking is that projects could be themed around three 'paths to heritage' – digital, adventure and wellbeing – to help increase the ambition, scale and quality of youth engagement with heritage.

- 2.5 This would include developing new opportunities as well as building on existing work such as the Digi-Arch weekend which took place last year. Aimed at 11-25 year olds, the event attracted over 800 people as part of the Lidar exhibition and used computer games and technology to attract a new audience to archaeological heritage.
- 2.6 We would also build on knowledge gained from the Authority's involvement in the National Parks Mosaic Youth Project which focused on developing confidence, leadership skills and knowledge of the natural environment for 16-25 year olds.
- 2.7 This upscaling and increasing of work that is already carried out helps to ensure that existing work will not suffer, whilst also developing the skills of staff involved to make this expertise and practice a core part of work going forward.

### **3. Timescales and time commitment**

- 3.1 Officers would like to submit an application to the Kick the Dust Programme.
- 3.2 The timetable for applications begins with a mandatory project enquiry form, due by 2 December 2016. If accepted we would need to commit resources to complete the first round application by 20 February 2017.
- 3.3 This work would be carried out by the grants officer, interpretation officer and ranger team, in discussion with other members of staff. We anticipate 2.5 days of staff time for the project enquiry stage and 20 days of staff time for the first round application.
- 3.4 We are in contact with potential consortium partners to discuss the fund in more detail and consider opportunities to work together, probably with the Authority as the lead applicant. Further information about what the consortium would like to achieve will be provided at the RAPC meeting.
- 3.5 If the first round is successful, a second round application will need to be developed between June and December 2017, but a development grant is available to support completion. This grant can contribute towards staff time via a new fixed-term post or additional hours for an existing member of staff.
- 3.6 Partnership funding in the form of cash, volunteer time, and non-cash contributions is required, some of which should be provided by the lead applicant. At least 5% of the costs of the development phase must be contributed, and at least 5% of the costs of the delivery phase.
- 3.7 Projects are due to commence in March 2018. At this stage there are no plans for subsequent funding rounds.

#### **4. Recommendation:**

**It is recommended that Members approve the submission of an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund's 'Kick the Dust' youth programme, as set out in the paper.**

#### **Papers:**

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#### **Equality Impact Assessment:**

The proposed project will have very positive impacts on the Authority's engagement with young people by helping to make heritage relevant to a greater diversity of young people.