

## NFPA RAPC 395/19

### NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

### RESOURCES, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING – 4 March 2019

#### National Park Authority involvement in Creative People and Places 2019-23

**Report by:** Fiona Wynne, Grants Officer

#### **Summary:**

Organisations in the New Forest have been invited to bid for up to £1.2 million of Arts Council England funding to develop local arts provision across the New Forest district.

We have been asked to join the core consortium to help develop a four-year programme of activity, requiring the commitment of officer time and potentially a financial contribution if the bid is successful. The invitation reflects the success of the partnership that has developed through the Our Past Our Future arts festivals and a successful programme will increase the legacy and reach of this work.

#### **Recommendation:**

To approve the commitment of officer time to the core consortium to develop a programme of activity and bid for funding, and if the bid is successful, continue our involvement in the consortium for the duration of the contractual period to 2023.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The New Forest district has been identified by Arts Council England (ACE) as an area where involvement in the arts is significantly below the national average (Active Lives Survey November 2015 to May 2017). As a result, organisations across the New Forest district have been invited to form a consortium to apply to the Creative People and Places (CPP) fund 2019-23 for up to £1.2 million. The New Forest district is part of ACE's south west region. Five areas in this region are eligible to apply to the fund but only one area will be awarded funding.

The vision for CPP is to support local people to shape arts and cultural provision in their area and to increase attendance and participation. The focus is on reaching as many people in a place as possible and involving people who might not ordinarily engage with arts and culture. This will be achieved by supporting new and different approaches to developing cultural programmes that deliver excellent experiences and involve a variety of partners.

#### 1. Consortia

- 1.1. Terms and conditions of the fund stipulate that programmes of activity must be developed and delivered by organisations working together as a consortium for the duration of the contractual period (four years). ACE's recommendation is that consortia are two-tier with:

1.1.1. Two to five core members to develop the programme of activity and meet the conditions of funding. One of the core members will act as the lead grant holder.

1.1.2. A delivery team of affiliates or partners that can develop and perhaps change over time. The team will be accountable to the core consortium and will be contracted to deliver specific activity and programmes of work as defined and managed by the core consortium.

## 2. NPA involvement

2.1. Since 2016 the NPA has worked with a number of local arts and heritage organisations to develop and deliver the New Forest Arts Festival as part of the OPOF scheme. Two festivals have welcomed 10,000 people to arts and cultural activities in the national park and surrounding area. This work has led to a more collaborative approach to arts in the New Forest and the development of the organisation 'Folio' ([www.folionewforest.org](http://www.folionewforest.org)) which brings together arts, culture and heritage organisations to develop new opportunities to increase participation across the New Forest. One of the aims of this new collaboration is to work together to seek additional funding wherever possible, with strategic (and potentially financial) support from the NPA, Forestry Commission and New Forest District Council.

2.2. There is no clear picture as to why there is low engagement in arts in the New Forest, but work is currently in progress to determine whether this is because of a lack of opportunities to attend and participate, or because of socio-economic factors, issues with physical accessibility or a limited offer of activities. This audience development research has been funded by £23,000 from ACE with match funds from our OPOF Arts Festival project. As part of this initial ACE grant there will also be a programme of arts events over the summer and autumn, contributing to this year's OPOF outcomes. The audience development work will now help to inform the larger CPP bid to ACE.

2.3. We have been asked to join the consortium as a core member to help develop the programme of activity in the New Forest. The arts organisations feel that our identity, strategic understanding and vision for the future are all essential to the programme.

2.4. The programme of activity has the potential to assist the NPA and partner organisations in achieving a number of priority actions in the Partnership Plan including furthering people's understanding and awareness of the special qualities (SQ1,4,7,8) and supporting local communities (LC1,2,8,10).

## 3. New Forest core consortium

3.1. All consortia must include at least one arts or cultural organisation and one community and/or grassroots organisation that is non-arts/culture. Local authority support is welcomed but as this programme is about communities and grassroots organisations taking the lead, local authorities are not eligible to submit applications themselves or be grant recipients.

3.2. Alongside the NPA, other core members of the consortium will be:

- Folio (the requisite arts organisation)
- Community First New Forest (the requisite community organisation)
- New Forest District Council (local authority support)
- Energise Me (community organisation non-arts/culture).

3.3. The lead applicant will be Energise Me ([www.energiseme.org](http://www.energiseme.org)), a charity aimed at beating inactivity and building happier, healthier and stronger communities. This includes working with local authorities, public health teams, schools, colleges and universities, National Governing Bodies of Sports and other key organisations from education, health and businesses.

3.4. This consortium offers the expertise, experience, diversity of representation and knowledge of the local community to forge a strong and innovative partnership. It is hoped that the programme of activity can act as a vehicle to:

- Explore and learn about the environment and people of the New Forest
- Improve the health and wellbeing of local people, particularly those at risk
- Deliver positive social impacts in our communities
- Bring new economic benefits to the New Forest
- Empower individuals, change behaviours and build confidence
- Discover and express a meaningful sense of identity and place.

#### 4. Responsibilities

4.1. ACE expects there to be partnership agreements between the core consortium members, similar to the OPOF agreements, that explain the main roles and responsibilities of each organisation.

4.2. By signing up to the consortium, we would need to commit time to the project. Initially this might be around six meetings per year as part of the development of the programme. It is likely that the consortium will also collectively assist the lead applicant (a charity) in developing bids for match funding.

4.3. Bids must provide 25% match funds so potentially this could be around £400,000 from a wide range of sources. This includes earned income, grants, individual and corporate giving, and in-kind support (office space, staff time). Match funds do not have to be in place at the bidding stage. There is no obligation on the NPA to provide funds, but should we decide to do this it is unlikely that we could commit funds until at least 2020/21 financial year.

4.4. If it is not possible to obtain the full match funding contribution, the grant awarded by ACE would be adjusted to fit the actual match funding received.

#### 5. Timeframe

5.1. A decision on funding is expected by 7 August 2019. All programmes must take place over four years between November 2019 and October 2023, and a business plan must be developed and submitted in the first six months of the programme.

5.2. Successful applicants are expected to develop a 10-year vision with the possibility that funding could be extended to help deliver this. This would be subject to an additional funding bid in 2023 if there was sufficient support from the organisations in the consortium to take this forward.

## 6. Staffing / management

6.1. Members of staff are likely to be employed specifically to deliver the CPP programme. Whilst these members of staff may be line-managed within the lead organisation, their accountability is to the whole consortium for the delivery of the programme.

6.2. It is also possible for the lead organisation or a consortium member to receive monies from the CPP grant to help deliver aspects of the programme. This will need to be agreed by the consortium and be dependent on achieving given outcomes.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**To approve the commitment of officer time to the core consortium to develop a programme of activity and bid for funding, and if the bid is successful, continue our involvement in the consortium for the duration of the contractual period to 2023.**

#### **Contact:**

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

There are no specific equality or diversity implications arising out of this report.