

5. CHAMPIONING NATIONAL PARKS FOR EVERYONE NATIONAL HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND APPLICATION (SLF)

1. Purpose of the report

This report seeks permission to enter into a partnership agreement to co-deliver the delivery phase of the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF) project Championing National Parks for Everyone. Peak District MOSAIC (PDM) are the lead partner working with Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, North York Moors National Park Authority and the Peak District National Park Authority.

The development phase of Championing National Parks for Everyone was successfully completed in August 2023. This report is for the second phase of funding, the delivery phase. The delivery phase application has been submitted, the NHLF board meets in December and will confirm if the application has been successful or not shortly after their meeting. The proposed project would start in Spring 2024 and run for 2 years.

Key Issues

- The National Park Management Plan (NPMP) 2023 – 28 sets out the vision and ambition for our audience outcomes. Aim Three: The Peak District is a welcoming place where all are inspired to enjoy, care for and connect to its special qualities. Objective 8: To create opportunities for young people and those from under-served communities to connect with and enjoy the National Park.
- The Diverse Audience Plan identifies those communities that are shown to be 'under-served'. This project seeks to directly work with these diverse communities.
- The need for Member support to accept funding from Peak District MOSAIC if they are successful with the Championing National Parks for Everyone delivery phase NHLF application.

2. Recommendations

- 1. If Peak District MOSAIC's bid to NHLF is successful, to revise, or if applicable, enter into a new agreement with Peak District MOSAIC for the delivery of the Authority's outputs within the Championing National Parks for Everyone Project.**
- 2. To recruit staff as set out in this report in connection with the delivery of the project.**
- 3. Subject to compliance with procurement Standing Orders to enter into contracts for the delivery of the project.**

3. How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

This project is a key delivery action from the NPMP and the Authority delivery plan:

- NPMP Aim Three: Welcoming Place, Objective 8: To create opportunities for young people and those from under-served communities to connect with and enjoy the National Park. WP.8 Enable identified under-served communities to develop an appreciation and understanding of the special qualities and a connection to nature.

- The Authority Plan: Provide opportunities for underserved communities to develop an appreciation and understanding of the special qualities and a connection to nature.

4. Background

The Peak District National Park Authority has worked in partnership with Peak District MOSAIC for a number of years to support diverse communities to visit and enjoy the Peak District National Park (PDNP). There has been collaboration on a number of projects, including the delivery of Peak Wise Community Champion training in 2017 and 2021.

Peak District MOSAIC have successfully applied to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for the Championing National Parks for Everyone project development phase. This development phase was successfully completed during the period October 2022 - August 2023. Peak District MOSAIC continues as the lead partner with NLHF for the Championing National Parks for Everyone project delivery phase. The delivery partnership consists of Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Peak District National Park Authority, North York Moors National Park Authority and Derbyshire Dales CVS. There is an existing partnership agreement in place and regular steering group meetings which if the delivery phase application is successful can be revised or replaced as required.

The proposed project develops our work to support diverse communities to visit and enjoy the National Park and builds capacity in our organisations

5. Proposals

The proposed delivery phase of the project will deliver the following outputs for the Peak District National Park:

- 4 outreach events reaching at least 40 people
- Monthly activity programme at each National Park (14 events, reaching at least 140 people)
- 3 Community Champion training programmes to train 24 new Community Champions
- Community Champions leading their own events for others in their communities to visit the National Parks, reaching at least 192 people.
- Further skills training for at least 6 Community Champions (e.g. Outdoor First Aid, Hill Skills)
- Training and support for 4 Community Champions to make their own films on how to visit and enjoy National Parks
- One networking events and one celebration event to connect Community Champions with further opportunities
- Changes to how National Parks recruit and support project roles to make them more inclusive, including targeted pathways such as the Community Champion Training Facilitator role
- Further development of Peak District MOSAIC, covering governance, systems, and implementation of a longer-term income strategy
- Development of a legacy plan focused on Community Champion network support

Please note that each of the three participating National Parks will achieve the same outputs.

Two external evaluations of the project will be undertaken to help understand the projects impact and inform future practice. One evaluation is on the project delivery and experience of the Community Champions with a second final project evaluation report.

The following roles will be created at the PDNPA to deliver the above outputs (the same staffing model is being used at the other NPA partners)

- One full-time Project Officer role for 18 months who will deliver project activities, including outreach, monthly activities programme and Community Champion training. They will recruit and manage the Community Champion Training Facilitators and Project Volunteers. They will provide support to the Community Champions as volunteers within the National Park for the duration of the training programme, before handing over these relationships for longer term support to Peak District MOSAIC. The Project Officer will be managed by an existing manager within the PDNPA Engagement Team.
- One paid 0.8 FTE traineeship, for 10-months, to support the delivery of the monthly activities programme and the Community Champion training programme. These roles will work closely with the Project Officer to deliver activities on a day-to-day basis, and additional management support will be provided by existing managers within the PDNPA Engagement Team. The role will be designed to provide opportunities for those interested in a career in the environment sector. This includes the role having the opportunity to work shadow other teams at the NPA to gain wider exposure to other roles in the sector.
- One Sessional Community Champion Training Facilitator, this will provide sessional support for the Community Champion training programme. These will be 8 days per training programme. This provides paid opportunities for previous Community Champions or other people from diverse communities with experience in running outdoor trips and activities.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

6. Financial:

The total project cost for all three National Park Authorities and Peak District MOSAIC is £688,437. If successful Peak District MOSAIC will be awarded a total of £557,953 from the NHLF. A further £40,000 of match funding, including £11,341 from the Peak District Foundation has already been secured. Volunteer time and non-cash contributions have also been included in the total project cost.

The total cost for the PDNPA element of the project is £140,148 and this will be funded by:

- £133,248 NHLF funding
- PDNPA cash contribution is £5,000.
- Volunteer contribution of at least £1,900.

In addition, the PDNPA Engagement Team will provide line management support as an in-kind contribution. At the Resource Management Meeting (RMM) on the 17th October 2023 the proposal for the project delivery phase was supported including waiving the corporate overheads for the traineeship role to help to develop our future staff as a learning organisation; and the corporate overheads for the Project Officer as an exception because the project will deliver Authority objectives. As this is an exception, a precedent for waiving corporate overheads is not being set.

An extension of our usual invoice payment terms has been discussed and agreed with finance to support the project cash flow. Each National Park Authority has agreed to this approach.

7. Risk Management:

The main risks of the project for the Authority are:

- Delivery phase cash flow for a small organisation such as Peak District MOSAIC however this has already been mitigated by the agreement of all three National Park Authorities for an extension in the normal payment terms.
- Peak District MOSAIC being unable to recruit and retain project staff. Mitigation includes a contingency sum within the overall project budget and support from Derbyshire Dales CVS for recruitment.
- Failure to recruit project participants and deliver project outputs. Detailed project plans have been developed and networks built during the development phase.

8. Sustainability:

Our work on enabling identified under-served communities to develop an appreciation and understanding of the special qualities and a connection to nature and the landscape will help improve the sustainability of the National Park as a place.

9. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:

This project helps develop our inclusion and diversity work, opening up various opportunities for individuals and groups from different communities.

10. Climate Change

Many of the activities being explored and delivered for the Championing National Parks for Everyone project will contribute to the Authority's role in climate change. The project will provide opportunities for underserved communities to develop an appreciation and understanding of the special qualities and a connection to nature including National Parks role in preventing and mitigating climate change.

11. Background papers (not previously published)

None.

Appendices

None.

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Rachael Lyon, Engagement Team Manager, 23rd November 2023

Rachael.lyon@peakdistrict.gov.uk;