

Bolsover District Council

Executive

18th February 2019

Bolsover Countryside Partnership

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and Transformation

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To provide an update on the work of the Bolsover Countryside Partnership (BCP) and to seek approvals to increasing the Council's contribution to the BCP to enable the Partnership to continue.

Report Details

The Bolsover Countryside Partnership (BCP) has been operational since 2005. To date it has helped to attract over £3.6M of funding and create over £400,000 in volunteer time, to improve and enhance the local environment of the District of Bolsover.

Appendix 1 summarises BCP's work programme achievements, and Appendix 2 summarises funding BCP has helped secure.

Notable BCP projects include:

- **Visit. Sleep. Cycle. Repeat (VSCR)** - BCP project manages the visitor economy programme focused on growing the local visitor economy. The project area extends from Chesterfield to Worksop and Mansfield. The programme is delivered by the North Derbyshire - North Nottinghamshire Visitor Economy Consortium. The project secured £30,000 from D2N2 to develop a Destination Plan, published in February 2018; it outlines the need to create a sense of destination by bringing together the areas world-class heritage and cycling offers. A copy of the plan is available at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/vscr. BCP is now looking to attract further investment to the area through funding bids to the Rural Development Programme for England and Business Rates Pooling. These have a combined value of £625,000, and if successful, would deliver actions outlined within the Destination Plan.
- **Archaeological Way** – BCP is developing an 18.5km multi-user trail between Pleasley Pit Country Park and Creswell Crags. The trail enhances local sustainable transport, it is part of the Key Cycle Network (KCN), and supports the development of the local visitor economy, including supporting VSCR. BCP has secured over £1m of funding to deliver the project and 85% of the trail is now complete. Further details are available at;

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/access/greenways/archaeological-way/the-archaeological-way.aspx>

- **Limestone Journeys Landscape Partnership** – the Landscape Partnership attracted £2m of Heritage Lottery funding (HLF) to deliver a programme of cross-cutting community based environmental projects between 2011 - 2015. BCP was a core founding partner and delivered a range of projects throughout the programme, including the development of the Archaeological Way. Significantly, BCP secured 75% of the total cash match required by Limestone Journeys to unlock the HLF funding. Further details of Limestone Journeys are available at <https://limestonejourneys.com/>
- **Other projects** – In 2017, BCP produced a Countryside Health and Wellbeing Feasibility Study, with the aim of increasing outdoor activity across the District. BCP is currently supporting the development of a new cycling and walking officer's post, partly funded by the Innovation Fund. The role will be hosted by Bolsover District Council (BDC) and is set to commence in early 2019. The role will partially deliver outcomes outlined within the Feasibility Study.

BCP is also supporting improvements to the quality of greenspace, and recently produced a number of briefing notes and a management prescription for Brook Park. Building on the success of the Bolsover Grassland Project (2008 – 2011), areas of restored wildflower meadow at Poulter Country Park have become a donor site where wildflower seed is harvested and used to restore other areas of grassland, such as Brook Park, across the District.

Social Return on Investment

Using the HACT (Housing Associations' Charitable Trust) model to evaluate social return on investment, last year the BCP Archaeological Way Access Volunteers volunteering provision provided a return of £19,194. However this does not take account of any of the strategic, infrastructure or funding work, which is at the heart of BCP's delivery. Other useful information to put the social return on investment into context for the BCP includes information recently highlighted in the Land Trust study which identified:

- that for every £1 spent on site management of its greenspaces, another £30.30 was generated in health benefits and £23.30 in reduced crime and anti-social behaviour
- people valued greenspace at 2.5 times the cost of maintenance
- there was an average uplift of £8,670 in the value of house prices within 500m of well managed greenspace
- on average an additional £38,000 was generated by local small businesses.

In addition to the above, the work of the BCP contributes towards the following corporate plan priorities:

- Ensuring a high standard of environmental maintenance and cleanliness
- Developing attractive neighbourhoods
- 800 hours of positive activity through culture, leisure and engagement
- Increasing participation in leisure, sport and recreation by 3000 per year.

BCP Core Costs in 2019 - 2020

BCP's core costs are calculated at £41,227 which includes salary and on-costs of the BCP Manager, along with travel and subsistence, mobile and ICT.

Additional office and secretariat costs of £3,700 are currently absorbed by Derbyshire County Council (DCC), who host the Partnership.

For the last two and current financial years, Bolsover Partnership has contributed £13,000 from its Public Health Locality Budget, and BDC/DCC have each contributed £13,500. A total of £40,000. The BDC contribution has been built into future years budgets at £13,500 (G065 5029).

Both DCC and BDC have expressed a desire to continue to support BCP in 2019 – 2020, however, the Bolsover Public Health Locality budget has been cut significantly and the funding previously committed to the BCP, i.e. £13,000 is no longer available, or at best, at a significantly reduced level.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

This paper has outlined that BCP has a track record in delivering significant environmental projects and securing external funding. BCP is currently managing a number of programmes of work, including VSCR and the redevelopment of the Archaeological Way. These are long-term developments, which will improve and enhance the local area.

In particular, VSCR has the potential to have a significant impact on the District. The Destination Plan outlines that circa. 8 million day and 900,000 overnight visitors come to the project area each year, this is worth £455m to the local economy and supports around 6,200 jobs. It is estimated that an additional £85m could be added to the project area's economy by delivering VSCR, and that this could support a further 650 new jobs.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

Consultation and equality impact assessments are undertaken as needed via the Countryside Partnership. The work of the BCP supports equality of access by better connecting communities through new and improved cycling/walking routes.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

Do nothing – if alternative funding is not secured, redundancy notice would be served and the potential of securing significant benefits for the district would be lost

Seek alternative funding to plug the gap – alternative options are being sought, however, the ideal outcome would be increased contributions from both BDC and DCC so the post is jointly mainstreamed to avoid gap funding being pursued year after year.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

BCP has core funding secured until March 2019. Both DCC and BDC have indicated their desire to continue to support BCP in 2019/20 and beyond, but this is subject to the availability of additional funding to meet core costs. For the last three years, the funding gap of £13,000 has been met from Public Health locality funding but this is at risk of being cut altogether, or at best a reduction, leaving the BCP financially insecure.

The recommendations of the report are for BDC to increase its contribution from £13,500 per annum to £20,000 for one year, requesting an additional £6,500, funded through the Transformation Reserve reduce the impact of cuts and to provide some level of stability whilst further funding from DCC and/or other funding routes are being explored.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

There are no legal implications.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

As the BCP is employed by DCC, there are no direct HR implications to the Council. However, if funding is not secured, the BCP Manager would face a redundancy situation.

6 Recommendations

6.1 That Executive note the contents of the report and the notable outcome of the Bolsover Countryside Partnership in recent years.

6.2 That Executive agree to increase the contribution made by the council from £13,500 per annum to £20,000, funded from the Transformation Reserve and subject to funding being secured for the remainder of the post.

7 Decision Information

Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: <i>BDC: Revenue - £75,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No

Has the relevant Portfolio Holder been informed	Yes
District Wards Affected	All indirectly
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	Supporting our Communities to be Healthier, Safer, Cleaner and Greener

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Summary of BCP Work Programme Achievements
2	Summary of Funding Secured by the BCP
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
Report Author	Contact Number
Pam Brown, Chief Executives and Partnership Manager	01246 242499

Report Reference –

Summary of BCP Work Programme Achievements

Theme	Summary of delivery
Biodiversity and environmental improvement	<p>Greenspace management – developed a management prescription for Brook Park, Shirebrook, this led to a wildflower over sowing project on 0.4ha of the site, using Poulter Country Park as a donor site, to further restore lowland wildflower meadows throughout the district. Further work to support this site and contribute to the management of Rainbow Park is ongoing.</p> <p>Limestone Journeys Landscape Partnership: Established a landscape scale community environmental improvement scheme, which delivered outputs between 2011 – 2015. BCP provided 75% of the cash match for the scheme.</p> <p>Bolsover Grassland Project: contributed 1.5% to National and 15% to Regional Biodiversity Action Plan targets for the restoration of lowland meadows, delivered outputs between 2008 - 2011. This work has led to Poulter Country Park becoming a donor site for other restoration (see greenspace management)</p> <p>Management Plans: Archaeological Way and Pleasley Pit management plans, the latter led to the site being designated as a Local Nature Reserve (the first new LNR in the District since 1989).</p> <p>Bolsover Biodiversity Network: established network which operated between 2005 – 2011.</p> <p>Site work: delivered numerous site improvement projects on all Partners' sites.</p> <p>Sand martin wall: constructed new roosting habitat on Pleasley Pit.</p>
Access improvements	<p>Visit. Sleep. Cycle. Repeat: A further 5.7km of trail improvements are planned as part of the delivery of Phase 1 of the Destination Plan</p> <p>Greenways developments: 15km of new and resurfaced trail, including: Archaeological Way, Blackwell Trail, Frithwood Trail, Hilcote Community Link, Newton Link, Pinxton Wharf, Pleasley Pit and Pleasley Trails Network, Rowthorne Trail, Silverhill Trail and Stockey Trail.</p> <p>Rights of Way and access improvements: 117 rights of way maintenance projects including resurfacing 1km of Water/Balkham Lane, funding path improvement works through Lady Spencer's Wood and Broadmeadows.</p> <p>Access Groups: established - Archaeological Way Access Volunteers, Bolsover Countryside Access Group and Hardwick Access Group.</p> <p>Car park improvements: Resurfaced and/or improved 6 countryside car parks including: Outgang Lane, Poulter Country Park, Peter Fidler, Stockley Ponds, Tibshelf Ponds and Wollen Meadow.</p>
Environmental education	<p>Direct delivery: 1241 education days delivered by staff or partners commissioned by the BCP.</p> <p>Project delivery: Worked with Partners to deliver: Think Green! Grot2Green, Education2Employment and Learning Timelines.</p>
Community and partner engagement	<p>Engaged with 59 partners/organisations/groups , including: Access Bolsover, Active Derbyshire, Anti-social Behaviour Partnership, Army Cadets, Ashfield DC, Barlborough PC, Bassetlaw DC, Blackwell PC, Bolsover Biodiversity Network, Bolsover Countryside Access Network, Bolsover and District Cycling Club, Bolsover DC, Bolsover Partnership, Bolsover Greenspace Forum, Bolsover Ramblers, Bolsover TC, Bolsover Woodland Enterprise, The Conservation Volunteers, Clowne Access Group, Clowne Wildlife Group, Community Sports Network, Community and Voluntary Partners, Creswell Heritage Trust, Cultural and Tourism Partnership, Derbyshire CC, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Doe Lea Valley Community Partnership, Elmtown With Creswell PC, English Heritage, Environment Agency, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Forestry Commission, Friends of Pleasley Vale,</p>

Theme	Summary of delivery
Community and partner engagementcont	Friends of Wollen Meadow, Groundwork Creswell, Hardwick Access Volunteers, Housing and Environment Theme Group, Hilcote Environment and Leisure Project, Junction Arts, the Land Trust, Langwith and Whaley Thorns Heritage Centre, Langwith PC, Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership, Mansfield DC, Marketing Derbyshire and Peak District, National Trust, Marketing Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, Natural England, Nottinghamshire County Council, Pleasley PC, Pleasley Trust, Pleasley Pit Nature Study Group, Prince's Trust, Route4Young People, Shirebrook TC, Police, Watch Group, RSPB, Welbeck Estates
Health and wellbeing	<p>Innovation Fund: Supported the development of a Cycling and Walking Officer post to be hosted by BDC in 2019</p> <p>Feasibility Study: Compiled the Bolsover Countryside Health and Wellbeing Feasibility Study – the partnership is currently trying to use the study to attract funding in order to establish a project in the District</p> <p>Walking groups: established groups in Bolsover, Car Vale, Shirebrook, Pinxton, Clowne, Creswell, Alzheimer's Society. Supported Chesterfield Walk this Way.</p> <p>Volunteer opportunities: provided a wide range of countryside volunteer opportunities, with a value of £362,569.</p> <p>Pleasley Vale Outdoor Activity Centre: Supported the work of the centre through preparation of funding bids, commissioning projects, access improvements in the Vale, attending events.</p> <p>Funding: sought funding for health project from Coalfield Regeneration Trust, Community Sports Network, Primary Care Trust & Sport England.</p> <p>Report: Commissioned 'Healthy Activity in the Countryside' Report.</p>
Recreation and tourism	<p>Project Management: Visit. Sleep. Cycle. Repeat on behalf of North Derbyshire – North Nottinghamshire Visitor Economy Consortium, which attracted £30,000 of funding from D2N2 and delivered a Destination Plan www.derbyshire.gov.uk/vscr. The project area covers an area from Chesterfield, to Worksop and Mansfield. Currently, BCP is working on £625,000 of bids through the Rural Development Programme for England and Business Rates Pooling to support the delivery of the Phase 1 Action Plan.</p> <p>Leaflets: Archaeological Way, Bolsover's Countryside, Discover Bolsover, Hardwick Circular Walks, Phoenix Greenways.</p> <p>Interpretative panels: Archaeological Way, Poulter Country Park, Rowthorne Trail, Peter Fidler, Silverhill Trail, Stockley Ponds, Wollen Meadow, Stockley Trail.</p> <p>Audio Trails: Archaeological Way, Peter Fidler and Carr Vale Reserves, Phoenix Greenways.</p> <p>Events: Participated in 49 local events</p> <p>Art projects: Established the Poulter Sculpture Trail which includes 6 new pieces of work: Bridging the Gap, Poulter Dragonfly, Industrial Fossils, Top of the World, Flint Flower and Scimitar Flower.</p> <p>Also supported delivery of the Pleasley mural.</p>

Summary of funding secured by the BCP

Funding source	Partners	£	Summary
Heritage Lottery Fund 2009 - 2015	BDC, CVP, CC, DWT, GW, JA, NE	1,996,500	Established and delivered the Limestone Journeys Landscape Partnership (2011-2015)
Local Transport Plan 2011 - 2015	BDC, DCC, LPC, STC	659,600	Delivered significant greenways developments, including supporting the Archaeological Way. Delivered projects to contribute to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund 2005 - 2008	BDC, BP, CC, CVP, DCC, NCC	427,000	Supported core partnership costs for 3 years. Provided funding for greenway development and access improvements; community environmental projects; biodiversity projects
European Regional Development Fund 2014 - 2015	BDC, DCC, JA, LPC, LJ, STC	278,000	Contributed to the development of the Archaeological Way
Tarmac Landfill Communities Fund 2016 - 2017	DCC	40,000	Contribution to the development of the Archaeological Way
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development 2017	North Derbyshire – North Nottinghamshire Visitor Economy Consortium	29,175	Development of a Destination Management Plan for North Derbyshire – North Nottinghamshire
Lafarge Landfill Communities Fund 2006 - 2010	DCC	28,000	Supported the redevelopment of the Stockley Trail
SITA Trust Landfill Communities Fund 2008 - 2011	BDC, CC, DCC, ECPC	25,000	Delivered the Bolsover Grassland Project which contributed 1.5% to National and 15% to Regional Biodiversity Action Plan targets for the restoration of lowland meadows.

Funding source	Partners	£	Summary
Bolsover Partnership Health Priorities Funding 2016 -2018	DCC, BDC, BP	39,000	Support for initial development phase of the Bolsover Countryside Health & Wellbeing Project
Derbyshire Land Reclamation Capital 2016 - 2017	DCC	20,000	Contributed to the development of the Archaeological Way.
Big Lottery Fund - Reaching Communities 2009	DCC, HELP	25,000	Delivered the Hilcote Community Link.
Primary Care Trust 2008 - 2009	DCC, BDC, CSN	22,000	Delivered the Walking to Wellness programme and provided match funding for the Community Investment Fund bid.
Awards for All 2009	DCC, PPNSG	7,500	Supported the development of the management plan at Pleasley Pit Country Park.
Education2Employment 2005 – 2009	DCC	7,000	Supported the provision of training for unemployed 16-18 year olds.
Parish and Town Council Contributions	LPC, PPC, STC	8,530	Support for the Archaeological Way Access Volunteers.
Community Investment Fund (Sport England) 2008 -2010	BDC, CSN, DCC	4,000	Supported the delivery of the Walking to Wellness programme.
Member Grant	DCC	1,000	Support for the Archaeological Way Access Volunteers.
Groundwork	GW	500	Income for Brook Park Management Prescription.

3,617,805

BDC – Bolsover District Council, BP – Bolsover Partnership (formerly Bolsover Local Strategic Partnership), CC – Creswell Craggs, DCC – Derbyshire County Council, CSN – Community Sports Network, CVP – Community and Voluntary Partners, ECPC – Elmlton with Creswell Parish Council, HELP – Hilcote Environment and Leisure Project, JA – Junction Arts, LJ – Limestone Journeys Landscape Partnership, LPC – Langwith Parish Council, NCC – Nottinghamshire County Council, PPC – Pleasley Parish Council, PPNSG – Pleasley Pit Nature Study Group, STC - Shirebrook Town Council.