

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE



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PORTFOLIO	Leisure
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Wildabout Burnley - Funding Application to Natural England

PURPOSE

- To seek approval of the Executive to submit a funding application to Natural England's 'Access to Nature' programme to develop the 'Wildabout Burnley' project.

RECOMMENDATION

- Executive is recommended to approve submission of an initial bid to the Access to Nature Programme for revenue funding for Wild About Burnley.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- External funding bids exceeding £50,000 require formal approval.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

- In April 2008 Natural England launched a new (lottery funded) programme called 'Access to Nature' and invited applications to fund projects that help deliver the following outcomes:
 - Greater diversity and number of people experiencing natural environment.
 - More opportunities to learn about natural environment and gain new skills.
 - More people enjoying natural environment through investment in access to natural places and networks between sites.
 - Richer, more sustainably, managed natural places meeting needs of communities.
 - Increase communities' sense of ownership of natural places and stronger partnerships.

The regional targets for the North West of England identify that priority will be given to projects that focus on the 10% most deprived areas.

- The 'Wildabout Burnley' project aims to encourage people living in the most deprived communities to enjoy greater use of Burnley's natural and semi-natural greenspaces including the new areas of woodland planted through the Forest of Burnley. In partnership

with schools, local communities and other agencies the Wildabout Burnley project will:

- Work with selected primary schools to promote and facilitate educational use of natural greenspace
 - Involve local communities in managing natural greenspaces and develop management plans to improve the quality of these natural spaces
 - Develop links between users, local naturalists and Towneley Natural History Centre to improve the recording of species and the interpretation of the natural history of natural green spaces
 - Encourage children and young people to use natural green spaces for play and adventure activities.
 - Promote the use natural green spaces for exercise and recreation.
6. The project will run for five years until 2013 and the project budget is £493K. The project budget will be used to employ two project staff and provide a capital budget of £20K per year to improve access and interpretation on selected sites and improve the recording of local species.
7. The Access to Nature programme has only limited funds available and bidding will be very competitive.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

8. The draft project budget is attached as Appendix 1. Funding of £395K is sought from Natural England and it is proposed that the Council will contribute in-kind revenue funding of £49K (over 5 years) and the balance of the Forest of Burnley capital budget will contribute a further £49K.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

9. The project will make an important contribution to the Council's objective of making the borough a place where people choose to live and work. The project will encourage increased use and enjoyment of natural green spaces for education, play and exercise.
10. The project will enable the Council to implement the objectives of the Green Spaces Strategy (actions GSS 16 – 19). It will increase the biodiversity of natural spaces and lead to further sites being designated as Local Nature Reserves.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

11. Consultation with project partners including LCC's Countryside Service, Youth Service and Education Service, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Wildlife Forum, etc.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

12. File held at Green Spaces and Amenities Unit, 93 Rossendale Road, Burnley.

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

Ian Sturzaker

ALSO:

Dave Anderson

APPENDIX 1

Wildabout Burnley - Natural England Bid 2008 to 2013

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	6 mths 2013/14	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue Direct Costs						
Salary & Oncosts						
Wildabout Burnley Project Officer	38,326	40,202	41,408	42,650	21,965	184,551
Assistant Project Officer	25,629	27,008	28,722	29,584	15,236	126,179
	63,955	67,210	70,130	72,234	37,201	310,730
Employee Advertising	-	-	-	-	-	-
Employee Related Insurances	400	400	400	400	200	1,800
Car Allowances	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	500	4,500
Operational Equipment	500	500	500	500	250	2,250
Direct Materials	500	500	500	500	250	2,250
Books & Publications	100	100	100	100	100	500
Stationery	600	600	600	600	300	2,700
Subsistence	100	100	100	100	50	450
Hospitality	250	250	250	250	125	1,125
Travelling Expenses	200	200	200	200	100	900
Arts & Entertainment	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	27,500
	73,105	76,360	79,280	81,384	44,576	354,705
Revenue Matched Funding						
Transport Recharges	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	2,500	22,500
GSA Mgt & Admin Recharges	2,720	2,720	2,720	2,720	1,310	12,190
Graphics Recharges	850	850	850	850	425	3,825
Accountancy Recharges	530	530	530	530	260	2,380
Personnel Recharges	487	487	487	487	244	2,192
Legal Recharges	485	485	485	485	243	2,183
Information Services Recharges	782	782	782	782	391	3,519
	10,854	10,854	10,854	10,854	5,373	48,789
Capital Costs						
Various capital schemes	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	10,000	90,000
	103,959	107,214	110,134	112,238	59,949	493,494
BIG Lottery - Natural England	83,167	85,771	88,107	89,790	47,959	394,794
Burnley Council - (Forest of Burnley residual balance)	10,396	10,721	11,013	11,224	5,995	49,349
Burnley Council - (in-kind matched funding)	10,396	10,721	11,013	11,224	5,995	49,349
	103,959	107,213	110,133	112,238	59,949	493,492