

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No.

Report title:	Pathmakers – building organisational capacity
Date of meeting:	11 October 2017
Responsible Officer:	Steve Miller, Assistant Director Culture and Heritage
Strategic impact Delivers Objective 2G of Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007-2017 “Increase the number and promotion of easy access routes, including access for wheelchair users”	

Executive summary

Pathmakers (CIO) is the charitable arm of the Norfolk Local Access Forum and is continuing to work to improve opportunities for safe and sustainable ways to access the countryside in Norfolk. To improve organisational capacity, Pathmakers is preparing a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) (Resilient Heritage Fund) to further its development.

Recommendations:

That the Norfolk Local Access Forum supports the Pathmakers initiative to make a bid to the HLF (Resilient Heritage Fund).

1. Proposal (or options)

- 1.1.
 1. The Heritage Lottery fund offers Resilient Heritage grants to organisations in the UK who want to build their capacity or achieve significant strategic change. This is to be achieved through acquiring new skills or knowledge or new models of governance, leadership, business and income, in order to improve management of heritage for the long term.
 2. The Fund is a flexible programme and can support a wide range of activities. It is available for non-for-profit organisations.
 3. Pathmakers proposes to put in a strong case for funding to strengthen the resilience of the organisation itself to enable it to deliver better access to the countryside for all, particularly Norfolk's most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Public rights of way are a priceless heritage, available freely to everyone who can access them: in Norfolk, Pathmakers is seeking to create as much good access to the countryside as possible to better accommodate the needs of those with disabilities. Natural heritage, the outstanding wildlife and landscapes of Norfolk can be better protected and more readily enjoyed by ensuring visitors stick to well signed paths
 4. The bid will also develop ideas to improve access to some of Norfolk's built heritage (windmills and windpumps) owned by the Council and/or the Norfolk Mills and Pumps charitable Trust. This could set out stages required (starting off with a feasibility study looking at the proximity of mills to the paths network etc.).
 5. The bid is likely to be made in partnership with Norfolk County Council and others (such as the Norfolk Mills and Pumps Trust and possibly also Norfolk Wildlife Trust which has large land holdings and a desire to improve access for all).

6. The bid is likely to include the following development areas for Pathmakers:
 - a. Development of a strategic vision
 - b. Development of a business plan
 - c. Better understanding of the organisation's unique offer and opportunity
 - d. Trustee skills
 - e. Fundraising and marketing, development of a small local grant scheme
 - f. Better integration with key partners involved with Norfolk's countryside access network
7. These outputs for Pathmakers will be driven by a self-employed consultant, recruited for a period of 18 months
8. It is envisaged that it will be necessary to apply for a grant of £100,000 (applications to this value do not require a cash contribution)
9. To develop the funding bid, Pathmakers is holding a trustee workshop on 21st November. The workshop will produce an action plan for increasing resilience including skills, people, funding and partners to feed into the HLF Resilience Fund bid.

2. Evidence

- 2.1. Please see 'proposal'

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1. There are no financial implications for Norfolk County Council as Pathmakers is an independent Charity with Trustees who have responsibility for budgeting and funding. Pathmakers plans to apply for between £50,000 and £100,000 to cover the costs of a person and other expenses relevant to the bid.

4. Issues, risks and innovation

- 4.1. NCC and cross-trust/charity working will strengthen partnerships

5. Background

- 5.1. Pathmakers (CIO) – the NLAF's charitable arm - is continuing to work to improve opportunities for safe and sustainable ways to access the countryside in Norfolk. Pathmakers can bridge the gap between the NLAF's aims for improvements to access and what is feasible (given restricted capacity in local communities and the limitations of the public sector to make improvements on the ground). For example, Pathmakers will seek to make the countryside more accessible to benefit rural communities by securing resources to make this possible.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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