

Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for the North East Meeting on 1 December 2016

CNE 2016 (4)

Minutes of the meeting of the Committee for the North East held on 1 December at 10.00 a.m. in the Newcastle Office.

Members:

- Chris Mullin (Chair)
- Jim Cokill
- Stacy Hall
- Niall Hammond
- Richard Morris (Trustee)
- Lynn Turner

Apologies

- Richard Evans

Committee Business

1. Welcome

Oral

The Chair welcomed:

- Eilish McGuinness, Director of Operations, who was attending the meeting

Apologies from Richard Evans were noted.

2. Chair's report

Oral

The Chair provided an update on his activities since the previous meeting, which included:

- Attending the Country and Regional Chairs meeting in London
- Visiting the Sill, Northumberland National Park

3. Declarations of Interest

Oral

Lynn Turner declared a conflict of interest in item 8, *Kielderhead Wildwood*, as she was the Director of the Kielder Water and Forest Park Development Trust, and whilst not directly involved in the project, she was aware of it and it was taking place within Kielder Water & Forest Park. She would leave the room for the discussion of the item.

Chris Mullin declared a conflict of interest in item 8, *Kielderhead Wildwood*, as he was the President of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust, the applicant. He would leave the room for the discussion of the item.

Chris Mullin declared a conflict in item 14 – *Coast Care*, as he was the President of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust who were a partner in the project. He would leave the room for the discussion of the item.

Jim Cokill declared a conflict of interest in item 9, *Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre*, as he was the Director of Durham Wildlife Trust, a partner in the Land of Oak and Iron employing one of the staff members and delivering several projects, though there was no direct involvement in this particular project. He would leave the room for the discussion of the item.

Niall Hammond declared an interest in item 22, *King James Enterprise Centre*, as his consultancy firm produced a heritage assessment for the building a few years ago. They have had no continuing involvement though and Committee were content this did not constitute a conflict.

4. Minutes of last meeting on 13 September 2016

CNE 2016 (4) 4

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the last meeting and signed by the Chair.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

Oral

There were none.

6. North East Regional Overview

CNE 2016 (4) 6

Ivor Crowther presented the overview for the region, noting:

- Eight expressions of interest had been received for the Great Place scheme and the final applications for those taken forward were due on 12 January 2017.

The Committee noted the Board decisions that had been made since the last meeting.

7. North East Budget

CNE 2016 (4) 7

Ivor Crowther presented the budget paper.

Four First Round Heritage Grant applications had been received with a total request of £1,901,200 against a budget of £907,550. The round was competitive and Committee would be required to prioritise cases.

SF4 first round applications for discussion and decision: Heritage Grants

8. Kielderhead Wildwood; HG-15-05099

CNE 2016 (4) 8

Chris Mullin and Lynn Turner declared conflicts of interest and left the room for the discussion of the item.

Applicant: Northumberland Wildlife Trust

Request: A first round pass of £368,500 including a development grant of £20,700 (53% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A five year project to restore native low density woodland over 94 ha at Kielderhead to create a more complete upland ecosystem. A wide range of people would be engaged in the project through volunteering opportunities through the establishment of a Friends group and a range of interpretation and educational activities would be developed.

The Committee agreed that the project was a high priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £368,500 including a development grant of £20,700 (53% of total eligible development costs).

9. Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre; HG-16-00835

CNE 2016 (4) 9

Jim Cokill declared a conflict of interest and left the room for the discussion of the item.

Applicant: Groundwork North East

Request: First round pass of £656,000 including a development grant of £6,000 (18% of total eligible development costs)

Project: An 18-month project to build a new Heritage Centre in Derwenthaugh Country Park. A new audience would be attracted to the area and a programme of exhibitions and interpretation would provide opportunities to celebrate the area's significant industrial achievements and natural heritage. Community-led projects, traditional skills development and training events and other activities would be delivered.

The Committee agreed that the project was a medium priority for support and **AWARDED** a first round pass of £656,000 including a development grant of £6,000 (18% of total eligible development costs).

10. Gateshead Local Studies Collection: Re-opening Access to Gateshead's Heritage; HG-16-02305

CNE 2016 (4) 10

Applicant: Gateshead Council

Request: First round pass of £599,500 including a development grant of £49,000 (84% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A 22-month project to increase access to the currently inaccessible Gateshead Local Studies Collection through the creation of a new, larger Local Studies space within Gateshead Central Library. The collections would be digitised and conserved and an electronic catalogue created. Interactive digital display units would be installed and a software package built to support the digital content. A community outreach programme would be delivered with a view to interpreting the collection, with volunteers recruited and trained in key skills.

The Committee agreed that the project was a medium priority for support and **REJECTED** the application due to concerns raised and consideration of the available budget.

11. Refurbishment of Grade II listed building. Mowden Hall, Darlington; HG-16-03415

CNE 2016 (4) 11

Applicant: The Education Village Academy Trust

Request: First round pass of £277,200 including a development grant of £4,200 (94% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A 15-month project to address a backlog of major repairs to Mowden Hall. Works to the roof, rainwater systems, windows and internal plaster work would be undertaken, primarily to tackle problems with water ingress. Asbestos would be removed.

The Committee **REJECTED** the application.

12. Prioritisation

Oral

Chris Mullin, Jim Dixon and Lynn Turner left the room for the prioritisation of the items for which they had declared conflicts of interest.

During the case by case discussions, Committee agreed that:

- *Item 8 - Kielderhead Wildwood* was a high priority for support.
- *Item 9 - Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre* and *Item 10 - Gateshead Local Studies Collection: Re-opening Access to Gateshead's Heritage* were medium priorities for support

- *Item 11 - Refurbishment of Grade II listed building. Mowden Hall, Darlington* would be rejected.

It was agreed that *Item 8 - Kielderhead Wildwood* would be awarded a first round pass.

Of the two remaining medium priority cases it was agreed that *Item 9 - Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre* was the highest priority and Committee awarded a first round pass.

Item 10 - Gateshead Local Studies Collection: Re-opening Access to Gateshead's Heritage was rejected due to budgetary constraints and the concerns raised. A resubmission would be welcomed.

SF4 first round applications for discussion and decision: Grants for Places of Worship

13. Applications for Places of Worship in the North East

CNE 2016 (4) 13

One first round application with a grant request of £241,000 had been received against a regional budget of £414,150.

At the initial sift, advice received from Historic England indicated that the case did not demonstrate that the works applied for were urgently required. As a result it was not taken forward for full assessment.

The Committee made the following decision:

| Item | Project Title | Applicant | Recommendation | Decision | Project Reference |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 13a. | St Columba Southwick Restore Project | Sunderland Chapel of Light | REJECT | REJECT | GP-16-00887 |

Committee noted that there had been one Round 2 church decided at delegated Batch level by Head of Region since the last Committee meeting.

SF4 second round applications for discussion and decision: Heritage Grants

14. Coast Care - Volunteers on the Northumberland Coast AONB; HG-14-08146

CNE 2016 (4) 14

Chris Mullin declared a conflict of interest and left the room for the discussion of the item.

Grantee: Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership

Request: A grant of £522,600 (54% of total eligible delivery costs)

Project: A three-year partnership project to improve the historic and natural environment of the coastal area by engaging 2,000 volunteers through a programme of activities and other opportunities. A new volunteer hub and project office would be established. A range of opportunities for young people, graduate trainees and volunteering for corporate groups would be delivered.

First round pass: Committee awarded a first round pass of £521,100 including a development grant of £13,500 (90% of total eligible development costs) in September 2015.

Key changes: Project costs had increased by £424,027, largely due to a large increase in volunteer time following the full development of a volunteer strategy. An uplift of £15,000 (3%) had been requested.

The Committee **AWARDED** a grant of £522,600 (54% of total eligible delivery costs).

SP3 Grant Intervention Increase for discussion and decision

15. Allen Valleys Landscape Partnership; LP-11-06814

CNE 2016 (4) 15

Grantee: North Pennines AONB Partnership

Request: A change in grant percentage from 63% to 68% to make a total grant of £1,736,000 (68%)

Project: To empower local people and partners to move the Allen Valleys towards a sustainable future that placed the area's natural and cultural heritage assets at the heart of the community and centre of the local economy. The landscape was characterised by peatlands, species-rich hay meadows, geodiversity, dark skies, rivers, ancient woodlands and abandoned industrial heritage. The Committee for the North East had awarded a grant of £1,736,000 (63% of total eligible delivery costs) in March 2014.

Key changes: Total project costs had decreased by £204,778 (to £2,547,492) due to an inability to achieve partnership funding targets. The grant intervention rate would therefore increase from 63% to 68%. Some elements of the project would not be continued, including the restoration of the Barney Craig mineshop, however the proposed changes would not impact on the scheme's ability to achieve the approved purposes.

The Committee **APPROVED** a change in grant percentage from 63% to 68% to make a total grant of £1,736,000 (68%).

SF4 first round Board applications for discussion and recommendation: Townscape Heritage (January Board)

16. Townscape Heritage Overview

CNE 2016 (4) 16

28 first round applications had been received across the regions and countries, totalling a request of £43 million against a budget of £18 million. Four applications had been received in the North East.

17. Seaham Town Centre Townscape Heritage Initiative; TH-16-01860

CNE 2016 (4) 17

Applicant: Durham County Council

Request: First round pass of £1,528,300 including a development grant of £77,300 (78% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A three-year project to restore and improve the townscape and character of Seaham town centre and help to achieve long-term economic sustainability, capitalising on investment made to date. A programme of activities and events would be delivered to complement the works, re-engaging the local community with the area and its history.

The Committee recommended the application as a HIGH (3 of 3) priority for support. The Townscape Heritage Delegated Decision Panel would determine the application in January 2017.

18. Stockton Town Centre Northern Gateway; TH-16-02945

CNE 2016 (4) 18

Applicant: Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, Regeneration & Economic Development

Request: First round pass of £2,000,000 including a development grant of £124,200 (75% of total eligible development costs)

Project: Focussed on the north of the Stockton Town Centre Conservation Area the scheme represented phase two of the redevelopment of the town centre. Skills and training opportunities would be delivered alongside the capital works, directly addressing gaps in the sector. A wider programme of engagement and learning activities would share and celebrate the historic nature of the area.

The Committee recommended the application as a HIGH (2 of 3) priority for support. The Townscape Heritage Delegated Decision Panel would determine the application in January 2017

19. Bishopwearmouth Townscape Heritage; TH-16-03580

CNE 2016 (4) 19

Applicant: Sunderland City Council

Request: First round pass of £1,998,900 including a development grant of £70,100 (90% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A five-year project to re-establish the area's historic features, raise the profile of Bishopwearmouth's historic value and underpin the area's evolving cultural scene and new economic direction. The fabric of late Victorian and early Edwardian buildings will be restored in the northern half of Bishopwearmouth Conservation Area.

The Committee recommended the application as a HIGH (1 of 3) priority for support The Townscape Heritage Delegated Decision Panel would determine the application in January 2017.

20. Revealing the Hidden Loftus; TH-16-03581

CNE 2016 (4) 20

Applicant: Loftus Heritage Group

Request: First round pass of £1,023,500 including a development grant of £116,300 (87% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A three-year community led project that aims to conserve and restore the heritage of Loftus as a key part of a wider regeneration strategy for the town. Capital works to priority properties and the public realm of the Market Place would restore key historic details. A programme of complimentary heritage and community activities would be delivered.

The Committee recommended the application as a **MEDIUM PRIORITY** for support. The Townscape Heritage Delegated Decision Panel would determine the application in January 2017.

21. Prioritisation

Oral

During the case by case discussions, the Committee agreed that:

- Item 17 - *Seaham Town Centre Townscape Heritage Initiative*; item 18 - *Stockton Town Centre Northern Gateway* and item 19 - *Bishopwearmouth Townscape Heritage* were high priorities for support.
- *Item 20 - Revealing the Hidden Loftus* was a medium priority for support.

The Committee agreed the ranking of the three high priority applications as:

- High Priority 1 of 3 - item 19 - *Bishopwearmouth Townscape Heritage*
- High Priority 2 of 3 - item 18 - *Stockton Town Centre Northern Gateway*
- High Priority 3 of 3 - item 17 - *Seaham Town Centre Townscape Heritage Initiative*

SF4 first round Board applications for discussion and recommendation: Heritage Enterprise (January Board)

22. King James Enterprise Centre; HE-16-03208

CNE 2016 (4) 22

Applicant: Durham County Council Regen & Development Team

Request: First round pass of £3,437,100 including a development grant of £330,000 (61% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A four-year project to redevelop the Grade II listed former King James Lower School in Bishop Auckland into an enterprise centre for small to medium-sized businesses, including the creation of an 'Artisan Small Business Zone' that would target businesses oriented towards craft, design and production.

The Committee recommended the application to the Board as a **HIGH PRIORITY** for support. The Board would determine the application in January 2017.

SF4 first round Board applications for discussion and recommendation: Heritage Grants (January Board)

23. Hadrian's Wall Community Landscape Archaeology Project (*cross-territory*); HG-16-02439

CNE 2016 (4) 23

Applicant: Newcastle University

Request: First round pass of £840,700 including a development grant of £92,600 (81% of total eligible development costs)

Project: A three-year engagement project to motivate, train and enable the communities along the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site to get actively involved in furthering understanding, devising future management and ultimately protecting 18 scheduled areas currently on Historic England's At Risk Register. Activity hubs would be established for each site and a range of activities would be delivered for communities, including a programme of practical works to the sites and engagement activities.

The Committee recommended the application to the Board as a **HIGH PRIORITY** for support. Board would determine the application in January 2017.

Papers for information

24. Parks for People Overview

CNE 2016 (4) 24

The Committee noted the overview paper. It was highlighted that there were no Park applications going forward from the North East.

25. Communications Report

CNE 2016 (4) 25

The report was noted.

26. Corporate Update

CNE 2016 (4) 26

Anne Jenkins introduced the report updating the Committee on the key corporate business issues.

27. Review of Delegated Grants

CNE 2016 (4) 27

The item was noted.

28. Report of the Equality Steering Group

CNE 2016 (4) 28

The item was noted.

29. Minutes from the meeting of the Regional and Country Chairs on 11 October 2016

CNE 2016 (4) 29

The minutes were noted.

30. Any other business

Oral

The next meeting would take place on 07 March 2017 and a Committee Training Day would be scheduled for the day before.

The next meeting will be held on 07 March 2017.