

REPORT FROM: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER

TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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LEVELLING UP PARKS FUND NOTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Members that the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has approached the Council to advise that Pendle is eligible for funding under the £9m Levelling Up Parks Fund.

To seek Members approval to complete the required opt in form enabling the grant to be allocated.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That authority is given to the Environmental Services Manager to apply for the £85,000 of funding
- (2) That authority is given to the Environmental Services Manager to provide a project proposal to the DLUHC by the 3rd October 2022

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To improve resident's access to urban green spaces within areas of Pendle that are recorded to have less than 5% of green cover.

ISSUE

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has recently approached the Council Leader to confirm that Pendle are eligible for funding under the £9m Levelling Up Parks Fund.

We are advised that the fund is being distributed in equal grants to fund the creation or significant refurbishment of parks.

Full details of the Fund are set out in the prospectus. Which is included with the report within the appendices

If Members decide to accept this funding, the Department for levelling up Housing and Communities will issue a grant of £85,000 to Pendle Borough Council under powers set out in Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 for the creation of a new or significantly refurbished urban green space.

As a part of the levelling up programme Pendle will also receive project planning support, benchmarking and thematic workshops delivered by key stakeholders in the parks sector to support putting our ideas for parks into motion.

In order to receive the grant we are required to complete an-opt in form by the 5th September 2022 and provide DLUHC officials with a project proposal by 3rd October 2022.

Funding is time restrictive and must be spent within the current financial year.

There is no competitive bidding process required to obtain this grant. DLUHC advise that they have assessed places' provision of accessible quality green space against the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) to produce a list of eligible places.

DLUHC accept that local authorities and community groups are best placed to know which neighbourhoods would benefit most from a new or refurbished urban green space and to assist in our decision-making DLUHC have identified the urban neighbourhoods within Pendle that are in the top 2 groups of IMD meaning they have less than 5% of their area near an accessible green space.

Whilst we have the freedom to choose where to site our project, we are strongly encouraged to prioritise neighbourhoods in Category 1 or 2, where it is practical to do so.

The areas identified within the Pendle region included Windy Bank, Colne, Lonsdale Street, Nelson and Netherfield Road, Nelson.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from the report.

Financial: Ongoing maintenance of the chosen project area to be met from current budgets and bids to Area Committee's and Town Council's as required.

Legal: None arising directly from the report

Risk Management: None arising directly from the report

Health and Safety: None arising directly from the report

Sustainability: None arising directly from the report

Community Safety: None arising directly from the report

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from the report

APPENDICES

Levelling up of parks fund: notification of eligibility letter

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Levelling up of parks fund: notification of eligibility