

**NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO THE**  
**CABINET COMMITTEE**

**Date July 2018**

1. **REPORT TITLE**                      **Biodiversity and Habitat Restoration**
- Submitted by:**                      **Head of Operations – Roger Tait**
- Portfolio:**                              **Environment and Recycling**
- Ward(s) affected:**                      **Bradwell, Clayton, Thistleberry, Town and Westbury Park & Northwood Wards**

**Purpose of the Report**

*To seek authority to accept the ERDF SUNRISE funding and to implement the project across the five sites working with Groundwork, Environment Agency, Stoke on Trent City Council and Staffordshire Trust, to improve the land and water habitats in the Trent Catchment.*

**Recommendations**

**To use the secured £46,675, \$106 from two development sites, as match funding towards the project, to accept the ERDF funding and support the project delivery by partners to create environmental improvements to five sites across the borough.**

**Reasons**

The proposal enables a greater output to be achieved with the available funding, which will benefit a far wider range of sites and environments and similar smaller projects working with the Environment Agency, Staffs Wildlife Trust and Groundwork have worked well over recent years.

1. **Background**

Portfolio Holder authority to support the ERDF SUNRISE grant bid was given in September 2017. The project is a joint project with the Environment Agency, Groundwork West Midlands, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and Stoke on Trent City Council. Stoke on Trent City Council are the responsible authority for the purpose of the bid.

2. **Issues**

The aim of the project is to improve biodiversity on land and water on a range of sites across the Trent Catchment area and there are five sites proposed within the Borough, including Lyme Valley Parkway, Thistleberry Parkway, Bradwell Woods, and Pooldam Marshes.

The project aims are in line with the aims and objectives of both the Open Space and Green Infrastructure Strategies and will deliver a range of works including changes to mowing regimes, woodland improvements and improvements to watercourses. Details of the proposed works and sites are included as Appendix 1. The project will run for 5 years in total with works taking place during the first 3 years, there will be monitoring of the sites to ensure that the biodiversity objectives are achieved and maintained.

It has been proposed that to support the project the S106 monies secured for Pooldam Marshes be included in the bid as match funding to the borough's elements of the project. This totals £46,675, and the total amount of funding secured through the ERDF bid for the works to the five sites in the borough is £183,275. The works will be implemented by the Environment Agency, Groundwork West Midlands and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, between July 2018 and September 2020, depending on the site and nature of the works. The site works will be supervised by Landscape officers.

The estimated cost of works at Pooldam is £56,675, which is considerably more than the secured £46,675. In total 15 sites over Stoke on Trent and Newcastle will benefit from the funding which in total for implementation phases is £3,329,069.

Site	2018				2019				2020				Cost
	QTR1	QTR2	QTR3	QTR4	QTR1	QTR2	QTR3	QTR4	QTR1	QTR2	QTR3	QTR4	
Bradwell Wood													£ 40,000
Pooldam Marsh													£ 56,675
Lyme Brook (Lyme Valley Parkway)													£ 30,800
Lyme Brook (Westomley Wood & Fields)													£ 45,300
Lyme Brook (Thistleberry Parkway)													£ 10,500

Table 1 - Project Timeframes and Site Cost

### 3. Options Considered

Option 1 – Do not support the project and spend the £46,675, S106 money on Pooldam Marshes only.

Option 2 – Support the project and gain benefit, in terms of financial input and environmental benefits for five sites including Pooldam Marshes.

### 4. Proposal

To use the £46,675, S106 as match funding, to accept the ERDF funding and support the project to deliver environmental improvements to five sites across the borough.

### 5. Reasons for Preferred Solution

The proposal enables a greater output to be achieved with the available funding, which will benefit a far wider range of sites and environments and similar smaller projects working with the Environment Agency, Staffs Wildlife Trust and Groundwork have worked well over recent years.

### 6. Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities

- Being a Co-operative Council delivering high quality services
- A clean, safe and sustainable borough

### 7. Legal and Statutory Implications

The conditions of the two S106 agreements states that the funding is for Pooldam Marshes, the cost estimates show that more than the sum provided will be spent of Pooldam Marshes and financial records can be obtained to ensure this.

8. **Equality Impact Assessment**

They are no adverse equality impacts relating to this report.

9. **Financial and Resource Implications**

The S106 contributions secured for Pooldam Marshes can be used as match funding for this bid. The project will bring a total of £183,275 in to improving five of the boroughs open spaces for biodiversity. The project will be managed by partners and supervised by landscape officers.

10. **Major Risks**

The major risks associated with this project are:

- Failure of partners to deliver the project – good history of delivering similar projects with the same partners has been maintained over recent years.
- Failure to continue to manage the sites as agreed – amended maintenance regime will be established during the course of the project.

11. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

The changes to the sites will ensure that they have increased biodiversity and will be more sustainable over the coming years, which will benefit both users and the environment in the long term.

12. **Key Decision Information**

The decision is a key decision as it impacts on 2 or more wards and has been included on the forward plan.

13. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

There are no earlier committee resolutions associated with this report.

14. **List of Appendices**

Appendix 1 – details of the proposals for each site and location plans.

15. **Background Papers**

There are no background papers associated with this report.

16. **Management Sign-Off**

*Each of the designated boxes need to be signed off and dated before going to Executive Director/Corporate Service Manager for sign off.*

	Signed	Dated
Financial Implications		

<b>Discussed and Agreed</b> <i>Lead Officer – Dave Roberts</i>		
<b>Risk Implications</b> <b>Discussed and Agreed</b> <i>Lead Officer –Annette Vacquier</i>		
<b>Legal Implications</b> <b>Discussed and Agreed</b> <i>Lead Officer –</i>		
<b>Equalities Implications</b> <b>Discussed and Agreed</b> <i>Lead Officer – Jane Sheldon</i>		
<b>H.R. Implications Discussed</b> <b>and Agreed</b> <i>Lead Officer – Nic Durose</i>		
<b>ICT Implications Discussed</b> <b>and Agreed</b> <i>Lead Officer – Jeanette Hilton</i>		
<b>Sustainability and Climate</b> <b>Change Implications</b> <b>Discussed and Agreed</b> <i>Lead Officer – Mike O'Connor</i>		
<b>Report Agreed by:</b> <b>Executive Director/</b> <b>Head of Service</b>		