



Haverling

LONDON BOROUGH

TOWNS & COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE AGENDA

7.30 pm

Tuesday
23 June 2015

Town Hall, Main Road,
Romford

Members 9: Quorum 4

COUNCILLORS:

**Conservative
(4)**

Steven Kelly
Robby Misir
Frederick Thompson
Linda Trew

**Residents'
(2)**

June Alexander
Jody Ganly

**East Haverling
Residents'
(1)**

Linda Hawthorn
(Vice-Chair)

**UKIP
(1)**

Lawrence Webb
(Chairman)

**Independent
Residents'
(1)**

Michael Deon Burton

For information about the meeting please contact:

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Members of the public are entitled to report on meetings of Council, Committees and Cabinet, except in circumstances where the public have been excluded as permitted by law.

Reporting means:-

- filming, photographing or making an audio recording of the proceedings of the meeting;
- using any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later; or
- reporting or providing commentary on proceedings at a meeting, orally or in writing, so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later if the person is not present.

Anyone present at a meeting as it takes place is not permitted to carry out an oral commentary or report. This is to prevent the business of the meeting being disrupted.

Anyone attending a meeting is asked to advise Democratic Services staff on 01708 433076 that they wish to report on the meeting and how they wish to do so. This is to enable employees to guide anyone choosing to report on proceedings to an appropriate place from which to be able to report effectively.

Members of the public are asked to remain seated throughout the meeting as standing up and walking around could distract from the business in hand.

What is Overview & Scrutiny?

Each local authority is required by law to establish an overview and scrutiny function to support and scrutinise the Council's executive arrangements. Each overview and scrutiny sub-committee has its own remit as set out in the terms of reference but they each meet to consider issues of local importance.

The sub-committees have a number of key roles:

1. Providing a critical friend challenge to policy and decision makers.
2. Driving improvement in public services.
3. Holding key local partners to account.
4. Enabling the voice and concerns to the public.

The sub-committees consider issues by receiving information from, and questioning, Cabinet Members, officers and external partners to develop an understanding of proposals, policy and practices. They can then develop recommendations that they believe will improve performance, or as a response to public consultations. These are considered by the Overview

and Scrutiny Board and if approved, submitted for a response to Council, Cabinet and other relevant bodies.

Sub-Committees will often establish Topic Groups to examine specific areas in much greater detail. These groups consist of a number of Members and the review period can last for anything from a few weeks to a year or more to allow the Members to comprehensively examine an issue through interviewing expert witnesses, conducting research or undertaking site visits. Once the topic group has finished its work it will send a report to the Sub-Committee that created it and will often suggest recommendations for the Overview and Scrutiny Board to pass to the Council's Executive.

Terms of Reference

The areas scrutinised by the Committee are:

- Regulatory Services
- Planning and Building Control
- Town Centre Strategy
- Licensing
- Leisure, arts, culture
- Housing Retained Services
- Community Safety
- Social and economic regeneration
- Parks
- Social inclusion
- Councillor call for Action

AGENDA ITEMS

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

(if any) - receive.

2 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Members are invited to declare any interests in any of the items on the agenda at this point of the meeting. Members may still declare an interest in an item at any time prior to the consideration of the matter.

3 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman will announce details of the arrangements in case of fire or other events that might require the meeting room or building's evacuation.

4 **MINUTES** (Pages 1 - 6)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of 22 April 2015 and to authorise the Chairman to sign them.

5 **CABINET REPORT UPDATE - BEAM PARK HOUSING ZONE PROPOSALS** (Pages 7 - 16)

The Sub-Committee is to receive an update to the Cabinet Report.

6 **CABINET REPORT UPDATE - GLA BIG GREEN FUNDS & HLF LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP FUNDING APPLICATIONS** (Pages 17 - 22)

The Sub-Committee is to receive an update to the Cabinet Report.

7 **REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 23 - 24)

The Sub-Committee is to review its work programme.

8 **URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any other item in respect of which the Chairman is of the opinion, by reason of special circumstances which shall be specified in the minutes, that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Andrew Beesley
Committee Administration Manager

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
TOWNS & COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUB- COMMITTEE
Town Hall, Main Road, Romford
22 April 2015 (7.30 - 9.25 pm)**

Present:

Councillors Lawrence Webb (Chairman), Linda Hawthorn (Vice-Chair), Michael Deon Burton, Jason Frost, Jody Ganly Steven Kelly, Barbara Matthews and Thompson.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Robby Misir.

The Chairman reminded Members of the action to be taken in an emergency.

22 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 14 January 2015 was agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

23 REPORT OF THE LANDLORD ACCREDITATION TOPIC GROUP

The report of Landlord Accreditation Topic Group was presented by the Housing Strategy Manager.

The report detailed that at the initial meeting on 1 July 2014, the Towns & Communities Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee agreed to set up a Landlord Accreditation Scheme Topic Group to consider the options of introducing methods to monitor and control the activity of private rented sector landlords in the borough.

The Topic Group aimed to understand licensing schemes, understanding current practice in other boroughs and a scheme that would appropriate for Havering.

The Topic Group noted the current status of Private Sector Housing (PSH) in Havering and examples of London Landlord Accreditation Scheme's (LLAS to then enable discussion regarding the merit of developing such a programme within Havering.

The Topic Group was aware there are three main potential options for the Council if it would like to proceed with tighter regulation of Landlord activity in the private rented sector in some or all areas in Havering.

Following a brief discussion, the sub-committee supported the principles of the scrutiny but decided to refer the report back to the Topic Group for additional information and evidence to back its recommendations:

- details of costs of implementing and funding,
- enforcement scheme
- housing standards that apply to HMOs
- case studies” relating to the schemes in operation in Barking & Dagenham and Redbridge

The sub-committee was informed that a data collection exercise was currently on the way and that the evidence collated from the exercise would inform on the decisions the service would look to consider.

24 **CABINET REPORT UPDATE - HAVERING BUSINESS GROWTH PROGRAMME**

In accordance with the Council’s Continuous Improvement Model, the sub-committee received a presentation update on the Havering Business Growth Programme that was considered by Cabinet in April 2013 from the Head of Economic Development, Culture & Community and the Business Development Manager.

The sub-committee was informed that Cabinet had agreed the three years Business Growth Programme in April 2013 to deliver the following benefits:

- Improvement in the reputation of Havering as a place to do business
- Greater prosperity
- Higher employment levels
- Improved quality of life

The proposals to deliver these four objectives were set out under three themes:

- Promoting investment in Havering
- Encouraging existing businesses to grow
- Transforming customer services for the business community

The following key achievements were detailed to the sub-committee:

The service had been able to work closely with partners to promote the borough and focus on key sites and opportunities for growth. The development of a new inward Investment Website and a commercial property database that was launched in 2014 to grow awareness.

The service was currently promoting jointly available sites in London Riverside with GLA, over 124 Business enquiries had been dealt with in the last two years.

The LEP Funding and business case were being prepared for diversifying the offer on South Street and Business incubator in Romford to bring empty floor space back into use.

The service had also completed work on the London Riverside BID Development Opportunity Study.

It was also noted that work on Salamon's Way (London Riverside) had been initiated

A two year business start-up programme delivered by Kingston Smith had provided opportunities for 186 individuals to be engaged in thirty-five propositions going forward to next stage of the business development process.

The sub-committee was informed that future plans and opportunities within the theme included for the Romford Development Framework to be taken forward as part of the Local Plan and promoted to private sector investors. The developing of an action plan for the Office Quarter including encouraging the availability of more serviced office accommodation.

The service was seeking to identify, lease or acquire low value and empty units in South Street using GLA LEP funding and High Streets funding.

The presentation informed the sub-committee that the second theme was seeking to encourage existing businesses to grow by the following:

- Promoting Local Procurement
- Improving Borough Infrastructure
- Improved management of Business Rate Collection
- Enhanced Business Support Services Programme
- Realising the potential of the planning system for business growth
- Promoting Town centres
- A skilled workforce
- Business Improvement Districts
- Helping businesses to be compliant and self-regulatory with targeted enforcement

The sub-committee was informed that future plans and opportunities within theme included:

- Using LEP funding to develop a new Business Support programme
- To bring forward Local Plan and CIL in line with Local Development statement

- To develop further Section 106 policies to ensure local employment and skills opportunity as part of the 'Build Havering' construction industry project
- To develop a three year business plan for Romford to utilise LEP funding including
- new strategy for Romford Market, deliver
- an enhanced programme of events in Romford,
- review the Romford Town Centre Partnership
- Refresh of marketing and branding
- Enable and facilitate businesses to develop sustainable partnerships such as Town Teams in the borough
- Develop a Skills & Employment Strategy and strengthen cross- borough partnerships to develop joint projects
- Deliver the a skills and employment Action Plan for Harold Hill

The presentation informed the sub-committee that the third theme related to transforming customer services for the business community by adopting a corporate approach to business development. Other included:

- Customer services transformation
- Selling Services to the Business Community

The sub-committee noted that future plans and opportunities within this theme included:

- Further development of the Business Voice Board
- Review of CMT Key Accounts and introducing key account process for top 100 businesses
- Improved functionality of the business portal e.g. by bringing payments of business rates via the portal
- Developing a database to deliver more targeted business support advice and guidance
- Further development of drawing together the Councils sponsorship and advertising opportunities
- Better use of the Havering Business Awards to communicate Council's approach to business growth
- Development of a stakeholder management plan

The Sub-Committee noted the update.

25 **CABINET REPORT UPDATE - HAVERING NATURE CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY**

In accordance with the Council's Continuous Improvement Model, the sub-committee received a presentation update on the Nature Conservation and Bioersity Strategy from the Head of Culture and Leisure Service.

The Sub-Committee was informed that Cabinet had agreed a three year Nature Conservation and Biodiversity Strategy in January 2014.

The Sub-Committee noted the progress against the objectives and targets that had been included in the Action Plan, which formed part of the agreed Strategy.

The Sub-Committee was advised that the following positive progress had been made in relation to:

1. Increasing the amount of natural space in the borough
2. The management of wetlands
3. The management of woodlands
4. The management of grasslands, meadows and pastures
5. The restoration of landscapes
6. The management of gardens
7. The protection of significant species
8. Volunteering
9. Publicity and Promotion
10. Tourism

The Sub-Committee was advised that whilst some progress had been made, there were more work to be done in relation to:

1. Wildlife corridors and ecological networks;
2. Eutrophication
3. Education
4. Natural products / sustainable management
5. Planning

The Sub-Committee was informed that work was yet to begin in relation to the objective on "Major roads as barriers to movement".

The Sub-Committee noted the update.

26 **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUB COMMITTEE**

The Committee without discussion agreed to note the 2014/2015 Annual Report and refer the report to Overview & Scrutiny Board.

27 **CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER 2 & 3 2014/15**

The Sub-Committee without any discussion agreed to note the Performance Indicators report that set out the Council's performance against the Living Ambition Goal for Quarter Two and Three 2014/15.

Chairman

Towns & Communities OSSC - Review of Cabinet Report

Review of Cabinet Report (Rainham and Beam Park Housing Zone Bid proposal)

CMT Lead:

Andrew Blake Herbert

Report Author and contact details:

Christopher Barter, Ext 2614

Policy context:

SUMMARY

Following the submission of LBH's Housing Zone proposal in Sept 2014, a number of discussions have been had with GLA officers. These have centred on form of funding requested, whether non recoverable or recoverable grant. Some elements of social infrastructure asks, funding for leisure provision and for a new primary school were not deemed to be eligible as was a request for funding support for Programme Management costs. However, the core asks of funding for site assembly, remediation, A1306 improvements, Beam Park station and social housing grant remain and these were approved by the GLA Housing Zone Challenge Panel on 5th Feb 2015.

The agreed HZ proposal is for a total ask of £29.06m comprised of £14.84m grant, £14.22m repayable grant. LBH will contribute £18.66m (not including the New Plymouth and Napier houses investment). Table below outlines activities.

- This will deliver 3,457 new homes (941 affordable)
- A1306 transformed into a boulevard
- Transport: the new Beam Park Station and bus extensions
- Programme of site assembly for housing development.
- Social and physical infrastructure – health, leisure, education and energy network

- Access to open spaces
- Robust Planning Framework and Masterplan design guide.

The Rainham and Beam Park Housing Zone submission has been formally approved by the GLA's Housing Investment Group on the 13th May and a public announcement from the Mayor confirming Housing Zone status will be made on 25th June.

The GLA held a launch event on the 9th June for the disposal of Beam Park, this included an announcement of the Housing Zone and of the £8.6 TfL Growth Funding for Beam Park Station.

Following the formal announcement of Housing Zone status on the 25th June it is expected that the Rainham and Beam Park Housing Zone will be the subject of a further Cabinet report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note this report

REPORT DETAIL

1. Programme.

The overall Housing Zone programme is comprised of 11 areas of activity, funded by a combination of LBH funding and GLA direct and recoverable grant and external funding:



No	Transaction type	Site	Intervention	GLA & LBH Amount	Status
1	Recoverable Grant	Zone wide	A1306 Masterplan, Planning Framework and Technical Studies. Series of assessments undertaken to accelerate planning and give prospective development partners certainty of likely level of additional costs Including air quality, flood risk, ground contamination, waste management and gas mains assessments. Commissioned and facilitated by LBH to identify obstacles to development, establish mitigation strategies and associated costs of remediation.	£0.19m £0.005m LBH	A1306 Masterplan, Planning Framework and technical studies underway. Completion June/July
2	Recoverable Grant	Zone wide	Health Centre. Land assembly within developments for multi GP practices to support new communities LBH purchasing land, attracting in commercial partner to undertake development. (which may be Council Housing Company)	£0.5m	
3	Grant. Recoverable Grant	Zone wide	A1306 Improvements. The A1306 will be configured as a boulevard, undergoing a major upgrade and place making to complete its transition from a dual carriageway industrial arterial road to an attractive street with active frontages. New residential and mixed use development will be matched by an upgraded pedestrian environment, improved crossings	£2.5m (grant) £0.25m (loan)	TfL have indicated proposals would be viewed favourably as a Major Scheme submission for part funding £3.8m.

No	Transaction type	Site	Intervention	GLA & LBH Amount	Status
			and junctions, cycle improvements, street trees and an innovative linear park, a landscaped green corridor connecting new communities. Major junction revisions and accesses into key development sites are planned. Its transformation will reprofile the carriageway allocating defined space for cyclists, pedestrians and vehicles		Work is underway to prepare a Step 1. Major Scheme submission in September
4	Grant. Recoverable Grant	Zone wide	<p>Linear Park.</p> <p>Acting as the centre piece to the Beam Park and Rainham Housing Zone. It will connect Rainham Town Centre with the new Beam Park train station, linking those who live, work, learn, travel and relax within this new Garden Suburb with a high quality walking and cycling route set within landscaped surroundings. This will be punctuated with public amenities, such as children's play facilities, seating, cycle storage, drinking water fountains, wildlife habitats and community food growing areas. It will also include extensive tree planting, SUDS, bus stop facilities and on-street parking while maintaining appropriate vehicle access.</p>	£0.76m (Grant) £1m (Recoverable grant)	

No	Transaction type	Site	Intervention	GLA & LBH Amount	Status
			This investment is justified through improved viabilities through major place shaping uplift of the area and ensuring the scheme is delivered as a whole and values rise across the development sites rather than piecemeal as developer contributions become available.		
5	Recoverable Grant	Beam Park and Somerfield	New Road Access for Buses. A new station at Beam Park is the key catalyst for the successful delivery of high quality residential development at Beam Park, Somerfield and the adjacent residential and employment sites. Opening of the station is planned for 2019/ 20, however, planned residential redevelopment on Beam Park and Somerfield is anticipated to commence before the new station is operational. To give the new community reasonable access to the regional transport network, without reliance on the car, it is proposed to provide an interim bus service linking the developments with the Rainham Station Interchange. This is best practice in a number of large development schemes as it ensures that residents have access to community facilities and employment spaces. It also ensures residents become use to public transport modes, therefore allowing higher density housing delivery.	£0.75m	May add to transport consultants commission for A1306

No	Transaction type	Site	Intervention	GLA & LBH Amount	Status
6	Grant. Recoverable Grant	A1306 Site Assembly Phase 1	A1306 Site assembly Phase 1. LBH have identified a number of priority sites to acquire, most of which are either vacant or in bad neighbour uses that would either deliver new housing directly or whose acquisition will enable comprehensive development on adjoining sites. Together their redevelopment will significantly uplift the urban environment and hence improve viability. The site assembly process will be led by the London Borough of Havering with an additional resource of a dedicated Development Manager, employing external specialist support where necessary. Funding will be utilised to support fees for professional planning and legal teams to facilitate business relocations and site preparations. Surveyors will also be appointed to assist with transactional sales, at which point the recoverable grant will be paid back to the GLA from the land disposal proceeds. A second phase initiated 5 years later, would then acquire additional sites if the market has not brought them forward for redevelopment. Intended that Housing Company would bring forward majority of these sites.	£3.65m (grant) £5.42m £1.2m LBH	Development Manager appointed
No	Transaction type	Site	Intervention	GLA & LBH Amount	Status

7	Grant	Dovers Corner	<p>Sewer and gas main diversion.</p> <p>The Dovers Corner site currently has marginal viability that may preclude the provision of affordable housing (submission for grant to support affordable housing is included on another transaction sheet). In addition, due to high abnormal costs caused by the presence of a sewer and high pressure gas main along the northern frontage, the site cannot be developed to its full potential capacity. Diverting the sewer and gas main will release 0.25ha additional developable land and allow for the delivery of at least an additional 11 houses.</p>	£1.5m	Still some uncertainty if prospective developer will co-operate on this.
8	Grant	Dovers Corner	<p>Affordable Housing Grant.</p> <p>Grant funding to support a RP purchase of affordable housing units on Dovers Corner a private sector owned site. Will accelerate housing delivery directly as secures much needed affordable housing units that would not be otherwise secured without this funding. In addition will assist a private sector housing company to bring forward a large housing site of 400+ units. 36 units – 24 affordable rent and 12 first steps (LCHO)</p>	£1.62m	Still some uncertainty if prospective developer will co-operate on this.
No	Transaction type	Site	Intervention	GLA & LBH Amount	Status

9	Grant Recoverable Grant	Beam Park Station Circ. £17m	<p>Beam Park Station A new station at Beam Park will act as the catalyst for the delivery of a major proportion of this development. Without a new station development viabilities are marginal which would potentially result in low development densities, poor design and quality and isolated estates. Development interest would remain low with a commensurate effect on both the prospective residential and commercial investment in the large residential brownfield sites at Beam Park, Somerfield and north of the A1306, Courier Road and Beam Reach 5 employment sites. It will improve access for the large and relatively deprived existing communities between Dagenham Dock and Rainham that currently have poor access to public transport of any kind.</p>	<p>£0.8m (grant) £8.8m (loan) £8.8m TfL £0.3m LBH</p>	<p>Network Rail commissioned to complete GRIP 3+ and 4 stages.</p> <p>TfL Growth Fund contribution of £8.8m confirmed – Station fully funded on current costs.</p> <p>Looking at Housing Zone constructing platforms and GLA development partner delivering station building as an integrated development.</p>
10	Grant	HRA infill sites	<p>Affordable housing grant. Traditional grant/gap funding to aid the delivery of 42 no. affordable units on three HRA owned `infill` sites. Sites to be delivered directly by LBH's in-house development team. These HRA sites require grant funding to be delivered for much needed affordable housing. Without this support the sites will remain in their current use. The intention is for the Housing Zone to provide this</p>	<p>£1.32m £8.61m LBH</p>	

No	Transaction type	Site	Intervention	GLA & LBH Amount	Status
			grant support and thus accelerate housing delivery. 36 no. affordable rent and 6 no. shared ownership units (First Steps) Delivery programmed for 2015/16 – 2016/17.		
11	LBH Funding	To be identified	One 3FE primary school	£8.5m LBH	
			TOTAL GLA Funding Total LBH Funding	£29.06m £18.6m	



2. Supporting Infrastructure.

The original submission requested grant funding for a new 3FE Primary School and a contribution to improving the leisure facilities at Chafford School. Both those requests were deemed ineligible by the GLA. However, the scale of housing development planned makes the provision of social infrastructure an imperative and work is continuing to secure capital funding for education and leisure provision. The Group Director, Communities and Resources has indicated that funding would be found for one 3FE Primary School, the GLA have in compensation, agreed to increase the funding available for the A1306 project.

Leisure provision is currently unfunded however, options are being explored through the current procurement of a leisure operator.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

Legal implications and risks:

Human Resources implications and risks:

Equalities implications and risks:

BACKGROUND PAPERS

TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Subject Heading:	GLA Big Green Fund & HLF Landscape Partnerships funding applications
CMT Lead:	Andrew Blake-Herbert
Report Author and contact details:	Robert Flindall, 01708 432892 email bob.flindall@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	This report reflects the green infrastructure objectives and policies of the London Plan, the Havering Local Development Framework, the All London Green Grid SPD and the 2014 Thames Chase Plan. Moreover the projects funded complement the Council's 'Clean, Safe and Proud' objectives.

SUMMARY

On the 13th February 2013 Cabinet gave approval for the submission of two funding bids, i.e. an application to the Greater London Authority Big Green Fund and an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Landscape Partnership grant. Both these applications were submitted and have been successful. This report describes the submission process and subsequent outcomes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For noting and comment

REPORT DETAIL

On 13th February 2013 Cabinet agreed the following recommendations,

1. To agree the development and submission of grant funding applications to the GLA Big Green Fund and to the Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnerships funding programme.

2. To agree that the Council be identified as the accountable body for these grant funding applications.

This report describes the submission process and subsequent outcomes.

The February 2013 Cabinet report described developing partnership work between the Council, the Thames Chase Trust, the Forestry Commission and other Thames Chase local authorities, in particular London Borough of Barking and Dagenham and Thurrock Council, aimed at securing funding for environmental regeneration programmes in Havering's countryside and green spaces. It is recognised that green infrastructure has an increasingly important role to play as we face the challenges of sustaining economic growth and the expected changes to London's demography and climate. Green infrastructure is becoming more important in urban areas because it can help absorb flood water, cool the urban environment and clean the air. It can be used for local food production, to promote sport and leisure and ensure space for London's fauna and flora; as a network it can provide links and connections between places, encouraging walking and cycling, highlighting landscape and heritage and supporting the local economy, in particular the visitor economy.

The report sought approval to make grant funding bids to the Greater London Authority Big Green Fund and to the Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnerships programme and for the Council to act as accountable body for the grants should the bids be successful.

Heritage Lottery Fund – Landscape Partnerships

This is a programme to support schemes led by partnerships of local, regional and national interests which aim to conserve areas of distinctive local landscape character throughout the United Kingdom.

A Landscape Partnership scheme is expected to deliver across all the following four programme outcomes:

- Conserving or restoring the built and natural features that create the historic landscape character.
- Increasing community participation in local heritage.
- Increasing access to and learning about the landscape area and its heritage.
- Increasing training opportunities in local heritage skills.

Landscape Partnerships support schemes that provide long-term social, economic and environmental benefits and create an integrated partnership approach to the management of our landscape heritage.

The Council, in partnership with Thames Chase Trust, Forestry Commission, LB Barking and Dagenham and Thurrock Council, met a May 2013 deadline for a Stage 1 application to the Lottery. The project was intended to engage the local population of 650,000 people in the rich history and development of the local

landscape between the country parks in the north of the borough and the River Thames.

This application was rejected by the Lottery in October 2013, partly because of insufficient funds, but also it was considered there was scope to strengthen the community engagement outcomes and the partnership structure further and that the scheme was less urgent than others at that time.

Despite this disappointment the partnership decided to re-submit the application in May 2014, and, having made an effort to overcome the objections to the original scheme, learned in October 2014 that the application was successful.

The partnership has now embarked upon the development stage, with funding from HLF that will pay for the appointment of a Development Manager and the commissioning of a Landscape Character Assessment and Action Plan, an Audience Development Plan, a training and skills audit and further community engagement. This work is now underway and, if successful, it is anticipated that the Lottery will be able to offer the full grant of an additional £1.3m.

Greater London Authority Big Green Fund

In 2011 the London Mayor published the All London Green Grid (ALGG) Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to the London Plan which set a vision and framework for London's network of green and open spaces; its green infrastructure. The Mayor supported the identification of 11 Green Grid Areas and the establishment of area-based partnerships to promote cross boundary working. Havering is located in Area 3 of the All London Green Grid, *Thames Chase, Beam, Ingrebourne*. This partnership is chaired and administered by the Thames Chase Trust.

A *Big Green Fund* was then established to provide grants of up to £500,000 from a total fund of £2 million, to support the delivery of up to six Big Green projects. Its aim was to bolster the delivery of the green grid area frameworks by providing a major boost to a number of exemplar strategic green infrastructure projects across London. Big Green projects were to result in transformative actions 'on the ground' and to be delivered by March 2015.

The partnership described above met a March 2013 deadline for applications. That was successful and achieved a grant of £350,000 for a project called Thames Chase Big Green Destinations.

The project sought to improve access to the Thames Chase area by creating improved access for people visiting from London and arriving at Dagenham East Station. Improved connections between the station and the Ingrebourne Valley were delivered and were able to make use of the new bridge over the Beam River at Bretons. At Ingrebourne Hill visitors could travel north to Hornchurch Country Park and the new visitor centre and then on to Harold Hill following the Ingrebourne Way and south to Rainham Village, the marshes and the River Thames. The GLA grant was match funded by TfL investment in Bretons Bridge and Veolia North Thames Trust investment at Rainham Marshes and at the Thames Chase Forest

Centre. Other outcomes of the project were the interpretation of these destinations at Rainham Station, a downloadable app and signage.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

The GLA Big Green Fund grant required 100% match funding. This was secured through TfL and Veolia North Thames Trust, providing grants totalling £674,225 for Bretons Bridge, Rainham Marshes and access initiatives at the Thames Chase Forest Centre.

The current HLF grant for Stage 1 is £94,000 with an additional £42,000 from match funding and in kind contributions. The anticipated grant for the delivery stage is £1,359,700 with a further £468,000 match funding. The later sum will be the subject of a series of funding applications, including to Veolia North Thames Trust. A funding plan will be one of the outcomes of the Stage 2 development process.

Maintenance costs for the capital projects will be met from existing budgets within the Council (Parks Service) and its partner organisations, including Forestry Commission, RSPB and the Thames Chase Trust and the works would be designed to ensure that such costs would be affordable.

Risks associated with the Council being accountable body will be minimised by strong programme management. Opportunities provided by the Council being accountable body relate to the level of influence that the Council will have over grant spend and achievements.

Legal implications and risks:

There will be contractual arrangements relating to funding agreements, and other arrangements required to deliver specific aspects of the scheme that must comply with the Council's approved procedures for procurement and which will continue to require legal input.

Authority was given to enter into a funding legal agreement with the GLA regarding the Big Green Fund by an Executive Decision in April 2014.

Human Resources implications and risks:

The workload associated with delivering these projects will be managed within existing staff resources and/or posts paid for by the funder.

Equalities implications and risks:

The GLA Big Green Fund and HLF Landscape Partnerships are important grants that will contribute to the Council's goals: to ensure a clean, safe and proud borough; to provide economic, social and cultural opportunities in thriving towns and villages and to value and enhance the life of individuals.

Both projects already have had and will have a positive impact on people from all protected characteristics, with children and young people (and their parents and/or carers), older adults, disabled people and those from disadvantaged backgrounds being amongst the groups that will benefit the most. It is also envisaged that the projects funded from these grants will increase social inclusion and improve community cohesion in Havering by bringing local people together and by providing them with opportunities to take part in various environmental and other activities.

An Equality Analysis will be carried out for these areas of work so as to ensure any potential negative impact is identified and minimised/eliminated and positive equality outcomes and opportunities are enhanced.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2015 -16

23 June 2015	10 September 2015	28 October 2015	21 January 2016	3 March 2016	
Beam Park Housing Zone Proposals	Performance Indicators Qtr 4	Update Rpt – Harold Hill Ambitions (Learning Village)	Update Rpt – Harold Hill Ambitions	Committee's Annual Report	
GLA Big Green Fund and HLF Landscape Partnerships	Performance Indicators Annual Rpt	Proposed grant funding bid for Restoration of Upminster Windmill Heritage Site			
	Proposed Crossrail Complimentary Measures Grant Funding Application	Performance Indicators Qtr 1			

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