



Report to Cabinet

Subject: Sherwood Forest Trust – Grant Aid

Date: 6th December 2007

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1. Purpose of the Report

To consider a request for grant aid for the Sherwood Forest Trust.

2. Background

In September this year County Councillor Chris Baron wrote to all District Councils and the City Council requesting that each Council match a grant of £20,000 that the County Council have provided to the Sherwood Forest Trust. He states in his letter that he feels sure that, given the support and finance Nottinghamshire receives from the Sherwood Forest Trust and value we all place on the Trusts excellent work and future role, we will support them with this modest payment.

Councillor Baron also states that the Trust has not received, nor ever asked for, any financial support from the local Councils but have delivered almost six million pounds in benefits across the area. In addition, they support over two hundred partners, offer leverage opportunities, seek new beneficial packages and offer development, delivery and infrastructure support.

The Trust should not be confused with 'Sherwood the Living Legend' a lottery bid for: -

- Restoring precious wildlife habitat
- Creating 300 hectares of new Sherwood Forest
- A world class and eco-friendly visitor complex with 100ft high viewing platform
- 250km of walking, cycling and horse riding paths connecting Sherwood to surrounding towns, counties and visitor attractions
- At least 50 community projects celebrating Sherwood Forest

How this bid will affect the work of the trust is unknown.

The Sherwood Forest Trust was established in 1995 and is the Charity for Sherwood Forest, the home of some of Europe's most significant ancient oaks

and arguably the world's most famous forest as the legendary home of Robin Hood.

The aim of the Trust is to make Sherwood Forest the best Heritage Forest in the world by conserving and recreating traditional landscapes and habitats that are under threat of fragmentation and destruction and by honouring and celebrating the community's unique traditions and culture. They also aim to benefit everyone who lives and works in the special place and its worldwide visitors and supporters, by ensuring the survival of the landscapes historic tapestry of woodland, heathland, rivers and farmland and by providing engaging education and visitor information about Sherwood's rich heritage story.

As a non-profit making organisation the Trust relies on the financial support of everyone from major funders to individual donations, legacies and membership of their 'Adopt an Oak' scheme.

The Trust has a proven record in co-ordinating and delivering landscape and community programmes. Through the 'Sherwood Initiative' they have successfully co-ordinated a 5.5 million pound, five-year programme, supported mainly by the Heritage Lottery Fund. They have also delivered major projects for Nottinghamshire County Council's 'Building Better Communities' programme. The Trust is in the process of developing its corporate structure and people to secure significant additional funding to deliver more major projects, either independently or with partners, and one of their objectives is to secure funders to join in and support ongoing project delivery to ensure the survival of historic Sherwood Forest.

District Councils throughout the County have indicated that they are unlikely to support the request.

3. Proposal

Cabinet are asked to consider Councillor Baron's request for a £20,000 grant for Sherwood Forest Trust.

4. Resource Implications

No budgetary provision has been made for a grant in the current years budgets.

5. Recommendation

To consider provision of a grant for £20,000 to the Sherwood Forest Trust.

6. Wards Affected

All Wards