

PLYMOUTH SOUND NATIONAL MARINE PARK

National Lottery Heritage Fund - Heritage Horizons Grant

Briefing Paper



1. Introduction

In 2019 Plymouth made history when key local, regional and national partners came together to create the UK's first ever National Marine Park.

Our 'Park in the Sea' will be a 21st century park enabling a new collaboration between ocean, heritage and City. The Park will be co-designed with communities to enable lifelong connection, fostering positive behaviours and delivering transformational benefits for individuals and heritage. More than a Park, our 'Park in the Sea' will transform lives, employment, education, volunteering and environment; re-establishing the bond between people and place that has defined Plymouth.

2. National Lottery Heritage Fund – Heritage Horizon Awards

The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), launched the Heritage Horizons in 2019 to fund large scale inspirational projects that would transform the lives of people, places and heritage. The strap line of the fund was '*Backing big ideas, unlocking possibilities*'. £50 million was allocated to the first phase of the programme to be distributed to projects that met the programmes aim of being 'Transformative, Collaborative and Innovative'.

The requirements of the Heritage Horizons awarded was a perfect fit for the City's ambitions for the National Marine Park. After a multi stage application process, including Expression of Interest stage and a formal presentation and interview and a bid submission stage, Plymouth City Council on behalf of the bid partnership were awarded nearly £9.6million of funding for the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park project.

The Heritage Horizons Programme is structured in two phases,

- Development Phase – up to two years to test and trial activities and programmes as well as designing and developing the programme to be submitted as a Delivery Phase bid. The aim of the development phase is to engage as many people as possible with the NMP and ensuring everyone can have their say on how the NMP project is delivered.
- Delivery Phase – up to 5 years to deliver the project.

As we are at the start of the programme we have received a formal grant offer for the Development Phase of the bid. A grant totalling £921,500, with a requirement for match funding.

3. Plymouth Sound National Marine Park – Ambition

More than a traditional park, our Park in the Sea will:

- Establish the UK's first National Marine Park;
- Protect and enhance a world class natural environment and heritage landscape;
- Be a national exemplar and thought leader in enabling a positive response to climate change for government, Plymouth and the NLHF;
- Level up access to heritage to ensure all citizens and lottery players can enjoy the benefits;
- Provide new employment opportunities and career pathways in sustainable future ocean jobs;
- Act as a city-wide and regional stimulus for economic 'green' recovery post COVID;
- Position Plymouth as a UK top-ten day-visitor destination;
- Create a new generation of engaged volunteers, communities and heritage champions;

- Get the entire City in, on under and next to the water through five gateways and a network community hubs;
- Deliver an innovation pilot for digital heritage engagement that will give the Park an international platform.

Overall we want to:

- Connect 10 million people with the NMP
- Engage with 264,000 people
- Activate 100,000 hours of volunteer hours
- Increase visitor numbers from 5.2million to 6million
- Utilise NMP investment to create 464 jobs
- Deliver £18.4 million of GVA

4. Plymouth Sound National Marine Park – Development Phase Bid.

To help us meet our NMP ambition the development phase of the bid has been designed to deliver the following:

- ***Delivery of an NMP Activity Plan*** – The activity plan aims to engage the entire City in designing the NMP and connecting with the Park. During the development phase this will include trialling activities, events and programmes to identify ways to enable everyone to experience the wide ranging benefits of the NMP. The programme will also encourage the widest range of people to have their say in how the NMP should be developed so the delivery stage bid is co-created with people from right across the City.

The activity programme will include:

- City wide NMP events,
 - Targeted programmes with groups not currently connected to the Sound,
 - Digital innovation hubs,
 - Piloting a community access project
 - Piloting maritime heritage project.
 - Pilot an NMP ocean ambassadors and marine citizenship programme
 - Trialling of programmes to support new NMP enterprise's and the development of future career opportunities.
- ***Designing and developing capital projects within the Park*** – By the delivery phase bid submission all built capital projects have to be designed up to RIBA 3 and all necessary consents must have been secured.

This will include design and development work at our key hub sites at:

- Tinside - for health and wellbeing activities.
- National Marine Aquarium - a hub for nature and the environment.
- Mountbatten – a hub for active recreation.
- Mount Edgcumbe – heritage hub to enable Sound's epic history including over 600 wrecks that lie beneath the waves.
- Smart Sound - digital harnessing the power of the latest digital technology.

In addition to working on the built asset programmes, the development phase will also include designing a nature recovery programme for the Sound, and working with the community to plan a network of community access hub projects.

These hubs will also have a key role in delivering the Activity Plan programme. The design and development of these hubs will be driven by the communities across the City to ensure they meet their needs.

- **Reviewing options for future alternative investment models** - To enable a sustainable financing model to be developed in the delivery phase, investigatory work will be conducted in the development stage looking at different investment and funding models.
- **Evaluation** – An extensive evaluation and active learning programme will run alongside the activity plan delivery. This will be used to assess the impacts of the activities in the development phase, enabling a true testing and trialling approach and will be used to inform the delivery phase bid.
- **Production of the Delivery Phase Bid** – The Delivery Stage Bid has to be submitted by no later than June 2023. The bid must include an 'Area Action Plan' and full design details and costings for all parts of the Delivery Phase programme.

5. Next Steps - Enabling Development Phase Commencement

The City Council on behalf of the bid partnership has received a formal grant offer from the NLHF for the Development Phase funding of £921,500. To enable the project to commence the following is needed:

- Formal acceptance of the Heritage Horizons grant offer;
- Confirmation that the required cash match for the development phase is secured (£500k of Council corporate borrowing);
- Submit our 'permission to start' request via NLHF portal.
- Allocation of £801,500k for the project into the Capital Programme.

Once these actions are complete and we have received formal permission to start confirmation from the NLHF the development phase will commence and must complete by June 2023. At that point the Delivery Phase application will be submitted. If successful a further grant offer will be issued by the NLHF for around £8.6million. It is anticipated that if the Delivery Phase application is acceptable the Delivery Phase will commence in Autumn/Winter 2023 with a completion date of winter 2028.