

The Project

Name of your organisation East Hertfordshire District Council

Project reference number NL-22-00027

Project Title Hertford Castle Grounds Transformation

Is this your organisation's first application to the fund? No

Reference number of your most recent application: OH-18-06172

Project title of your most recent application: Heritage Discovery at Pishiobury Park

Tell us your idea. (5000 characters)

Our vision is to transform Hertford Castle Park and Gardens into a safer and more welcoming gateway to the historic town of Hertford with a distinctive and coherent identity which recognises the site's cultural and natural heritage as well as its amenity value, and to ensure the future protection of this heritage by engaging visitors and local communities with their importance.

The gardens are currently the central feature of the castle grounds and need to be welcoming to all visitors. To reflect the historic nature of the site they gardens will be replanted in a regency style using historically accurate and pollinator friendly flowers. The regency style incorporates lower hedges which, combined with improved lighting, will improve the feeling of safety in the grounds by improving sightlines.

The Ashley Webb shelter will be refurbished addressing the damage to the structure and opening up the sightlines into the shelter. This will make it less appealing as a place for antisocial behaviour and more suitable as a venue for performances, art displays and pop-up stalls.

The curtain walls on the eastern edges of the site and the motte will be protected and made more visible by removing trees and vegetation which threaten and obscure them. Furthermore, strategic planting of the beds and additional lighting will highlight these features and turn them into a focal point. The barrier around the base of motte will be removed and steps to its top installed so it is no longer disconnected from the rest of the grounds, while a cantilever walkway along the river from the base of the motte to the front of the theatre will create a scenic route to the town centre. This new walkway will replace the need for the safety fence along the river whilst also while protecting the motte from river erosion.

Using more innovative media including tactile displays and virtual reality to show how the castle would have looked in the past, interpretation will engage a wider range of visitors with the heritage present. The physical accessibility issues of Hertford Castle grounds will be addressed by replacing the existing three bridges with two bridges which meet the need for vehicle access and step free access across the river. At the same time active travel will be supported by installing bike racks and waymarking to points of interest both inside and outside the castle grounds. Creating a new car park away from the gatehouse will protect the historic appearance of the gatehouse while making the site more accessible for those who can only travel to the site by car due to disability.

The river will be restored to provide globally rare chalk river habitat; it will be desilted and the banks will be reprofiled to restore the extent of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) and create more gradual slopes to establish a riparian zone. Installing berms and gravel will create flow diversity and a more natural riffle-pool sequence. The grassland to the west of the river will be enhanced with areas of wildflower meadow and tree planting where the existing playground is. This will not only benefit wildlife but also link back to Hertford Castle's past when it was surrounded by a more natural landscape. To engage the youngest visitors with the castle's heritage a new play area, perhaps resembling a motte and bailey, will be placed closer to the motte.

Artistic displays inspired by local heritage will attract new visitors to the park and increase the stay time of existing users of the park, facilitating new ways of connecting with the heritage of the park. Displays will be developed in collaboration with minority and special interest groups and be representative of the diversity both in Hertford today and in the past.

Day-to-day visitors to the castle will have greater opportunities to engage with the heritage of the site independently as a result of the capital works described above however the project will aim to engage the public with heritage more directly through a series of events. Hertford Town Council hold an annual Heritage Day which will be expanded into a longer event. Individual events will happen throughout the spring and summer months ranging from wildlife and history talks to heritage skills courses (e.g. basket weaving, nalbinding, lapidary, etc.) to wellbeing events (e.g. mindfulness and art). The activity plan will be developed with advice from AccessibleUK and Herts Equality Council to ensure inclusiveness.

In summary this project will transform Hertford Castle grounds and the associated waterway to highlight the history of the site, increase biodiversity, and connect local communities and visitors with the cultural and natural heritage of the grounds and wider town in varied and inclusive ways. Improvements to the heritage assets and improvements to the site's value to the community will be delivered holistically creating a coherent identity for the site which encompasses its importance as a historic site and as a crucial greenspace.

Where will your project take place?

The Castle

Hertford

SG14 1HR

Explain what need and opportunity your project will address. (5000 characters)

The potential of this historic location as a place of interest and recreation is not currently realised largely due to the poor condition of and lack of appreciation for its heritage. The castle grounds are well maintained but, having evolved disparately from the heritage contained within it, the site is often viewed as any other amenity greenspace without recognition of the rich heritage it contains which should be explored and enjoyed.

There is a lack of understanding about the heritage of Hertford Castle, in particular many visitors believe that the gatehouse is the castle (a fact evident from Tripadvisor reviews). The interpretation currently used around the grounds is text based and has little engagement value especially for

younger audiences. The need for more eye-catching features and diverse media presents opportunities to support local artists by commissioning sculptures, and involve students at the local colleges and the University of Hertford in developing inventive contemporary interpretation. The play area is outdated and its current location raises concerns about air quality due to its proximity to a main road. Moving the play area creates an opportunity to improve its play value in a way that complements its surroundings such that it functions as interactive interpretation.

Key historical features, including the motte, are difficult to view in places due to the surrounding vegetation. The project will focus on bringing these back into prominence and celebrating them. In some places tree roots and branches also risk damaging historic structures and need careful management if the structures are to be conserved. By developing an appropriate garden plan the vegetation will be used to draw the eye towards historic features instead of hiding them.

The natural heritage of the site is in poor condition with the river habitat in particular being at risk. The grassland areas are generally species poor and the river is impounded and silted up. The habitat improvements in this project will contribute to meeting the targets in the Hertfordshire Sustainability Strategy and in doing so help tackle the national biodiversity crisis. There are already several projects in the surrounding landscape and along the River Lea improving habitats which would be strengthened by the additional stepping stone created by this project. By working with the Middle Lea Catchment Partnership there is also an opportunity to maximise the benefits of the river restoration by applying lessons learnt during other similar projects.

The Ashley Webb Shelter, which was constructed in an era when anti-social behaviour (ASB) was not such an issue, now unfortunately provides a shelter for such activities. The entrances to the castle grounds are currently locked overnight as a deterrent however refurbishment could facilitate more positive deterrents such as increased site use by turning the Ashley Webb Shelter into a pleasant gathering place, outdoor theatre space and a hub for community engagement. Safety is a concern for some visitors, particularly where visibility is limited. Additional lighting and a garden plan which allows fewer areas to be concealed by vegetation will deter ASB as well as make heritage assets more prominent. In addition to benefitting wildlife, the replant will also be ecologically friendly, creating opportunities to hold events teaching local residents about wildlife friendly gardening.

The site is not completely accessible to those with mobility issues due to steps on one of the bridges and uneven paths. This is compounded by the fact that there are no clear indications of where paths lead either within the park or if followed outside of the grounds. Also, the only bridge wide enough for vehicles has a weight limit due to a gradually deteriorating structure, thus allowing only pedestrian access. By resurfacing paths in a consistent style, following the recently adopted design pallet to ensure the new waymarking, interpretation and bridges complement existing furniture a clearer identity for the site can be established while addressing the physical accessibility of the site.

The castle grounds currently see a reasonable amount of use by the local community for everyday activities associated with parks as well as occasional wedding receptions, so it is already well known as greenspace and a venue for events. There is an opportunity to promote the gardens as an even more versatile multi-use space for fitness classes, artistic displays as well as heritage events, beyond those organised by Hertford Town Council, returning Hertford Castle to a vibrant place at the heart of the community.

Why does your project need to happen now? (5000 characters)

The most pressing reason that the project needs to happen now is that the issues with river habitat and bridges, and the threats to the historic structures need to be addressed before they worsen and potentially irreparable damage is done.

We must address the imbalance of focus from stakeholders and visitors, and instil in them an understanding of the historical significance of the motte, so that they will value and protect it for generations to come.

Improving pedestrian links between the castle grounds and the town centre and improving the habitats present are key parts of the Hertford Town Centre Urban Design Strategy which was produced to ensure the economic and environmental sustainability of the town. The strategy aims to re-invigorate the town centre and meet the needs of residents. The relevant core objectives from the strategy for this project are:

- Transform the river bank into an attractive destination and create and improve links to connect it into the wider town centre.
- Promote Hertford town centre as a tourist destination by improving, publicising and extending the offer of cultural attractions.
- Create a high quality accessible network of routes and spaces that encourages people to move around the town centre and invites people to stay.

The Town Councils Objectives for the period 2019-2023 were adopted in October 2019 and, based on the Urban Design Strategy, include an objective to 'Positively Influence Spatial and Economic Development' - 'Collaborate with East Herts District Council to enhance and maximise the utilisation and public amenity of Hertford Castle Grounds'. Although the full project will not be delivered within this time frame, it is important that it is delivered in the near future to achieve this objective.

Delivering the project in the next five years also presents the opportunity to coincide with improvements to the neighbouring theatre, establishing a network of high quality community assets and cultural attractions which strengthen each other.

The cantilever walkway has been adopted into this Hertford Castle Transformation project to support delivery of a parallel project to develop Hertford Theatre but is also crucial to protect the future of the motte. The walkway will deliver mutual benefits to Hertford Castle Park and Gardens, Hertford Theatre and the development of the town centre:

- It will connect the theatre with the heritage of the town and the stories contained therein and, vice versa, connect visitors to the castle grounds with an additional method of experiencing the castle's heritage.
- The formal link between the theatre and the Ashley Webb shelter will also facilitate the use of the shelter for live performances.
- It will improve the habitats within the River Lea and increase public access to this important natural heritage asset.
- It will remove the need for fencing around the motte and protect the motte from erosion by the river.
- It will improve connectivity with the town centre for pedestrians via an attractive route, facilitating and encouraging active travel.

The Hertford Theatre Development is expected to be completed by spring 2024 and permission for these works around the Motte has been granted by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media

and Sport until June 2025. It must therefore be completed within the first year of delivery of this Hertford Castle Transformation project.

Improving the condition of the river now will have a more notable impact than it would have done earlier as it will act synergistically with other projects enhancing the habitats and connectivity along the Lea and its tributaries which are being co-ordinated by the Middle Lea Catchment Partnership. These projects include reducing sediment and chemical input, installing eel passes and, where possible, reducing impoundment as well as creating and restoring habitats within and around the river.

Tell us what advice you have received in planning your project and from whom. (5000 characters)

The primary basis for this project is the Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) which East Herts Council and Hertford Town Council developed with the assistance of the Countryside Management Service. This was formulated through two rounds of public engagement and identified the basis for this project. The GAP itself was developed in line with Hertford Town Centre Urban Development Strategy, Hertfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan, East Herts Plan, Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2013-2018, Everyone Matters 2009-2024, Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2023, and Thames River Basin District: River Basin Management Plan 2016. The project has been developed using the findings from an options appraisal for the Ashley Webb shelter by Donald Insall Associates and learning shared via the Future Parks Accelerator and the Healthy Parks Framework.

Advice has been received from NLHF senior engagement officers (Rachel Macfarlane and Dawn Bainbridge) both before and after submission of the Expression of Interest. The discussions with senior engagement officers covered, among other things, the suitability of individual project costs for NLHF funding and how various elements of project management should be planned for including acknowledgment of the grant, evaluation and recruitment for new roles.

The Environment Agency (EA) have advised that a new feasibility study will need to be conducted to ensure that any proposed modifications to the weir to allow fish passage do not increase flood risk and that the application for the Flood Risk Activity Permit should be started as soon as possible during the development phase. The EA also suggested that it may be possible to facilitate fish passage by adjusting the operating procedures of the weir, however a feasibility study would need to investigate this as an option to determine whether it would have the desired effects without incurring negative impacts.

Historic England have advised that any works to the river bank which is part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument will need consent from the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. This may limit what restoration works can be undertaken on this side of the river. They also agreed that the cantilever walkway could protect the motte from erosion and suggested that the car park should be moved to maintain the appearance of the gatehouse. They provided some advice on the specifications for the condition survey.

The EHC Tree officer has advised on the most appropriate management for vegetation both where the aim is to conserve nearby structures and where the aim is to conserve trees.

HERC have offered to advise on the delivery of wildlife surveying events (BioBlitz etc.) to ensure the quality of the data recorded and the quality of participant experiences as measurable outputs.

Tell us about the people who will benefit from your project. (5000 characters)

The people who will benefit most from this project will be the residents of Hertford and the surrounding areas who are able to visit the castle grounds regularly as they will have a better place to live and work due to the improvements in access to high quality greenspace, children's activities, heritage interpretation and safety. According to the most recent census there are around 29,000 people living in Hertford and around 152,000 living in East Hertfordshire.

13.1% of East Hertfordshire residents report that their day to day activities are limited to some extent by a long term illness or disability. By reducing the barriers to physical and sensory accessibility through creating step free access and additional parking, and diversifying interpretation media, some of those residents will have somewhere new they can visit and enjoy. Though people of all ages can have disabilities this is more likely to benefit the elderly as 80% of over 85s have some form of disability and 65% of those over 75 have a degree of both sight and hearing loss.

Restoring the river and improving the neighbouring habitats, and in doing so increasing the biodiversity of the site, will raise the quality of the castle grounds natural features. Studies not only show that natural spaces improve the mental health of those that visit them but suggest that these benefits increase with biodiversity. This project will be of great benefit to residents in supporting their mental health. Residents of East Hertfordshire on average scored their anxiety levels as 3.1 out of 10, 1 being very anxious and 10 being not anxious at all.

The 11.8% of local residents under 10 in particular will benefit from the new play area. It will be further away from the air and noise pollution from the A414 and will provide local parents with a more appealing opportunity to keep their children active and entertained than the previous playground. This will not only help in tackling childhood obesity but also allow more stimulating play which is important for child development by facilitating sensory and imaginative play.

The project aims to reduce less visible barriers and support environmental justice as advocated by the Future Parks Accelerator. By representing minority groups and recognising the role minorities have played in the history of Hertford in the interpretation materials, events and artistic displays we aim to make those minorities feel more welcome at the site. Events delivered in collaboration with specialist organisations which actively encourage the involvement of minorities and disadvantaged groups are planned throughout the project, both facilitating learning about the heritage and being involved protecting it as a volunteer.

Mudlarks, a local charity supporting adults with learning disabilities and mental health issues, has provided the garden maintenance for the castle for several years with their volunteers. They have demonstrated the benefits of volunteering in a public greenspace like Hertford Castle, especially for those with learning disabilities and mental health issues. For the volunteers it provides opportunities to socialise which reduces isolation, learn new skills and be part of successful projects which helps to build self confidence, and enjoy physical exercise in a peaceful environment. Just as importantly, members of the public gain an understanding of other groups within their community which helps to break down barriers. We aim to extend these benefits to all volunteers engaged through the project.

Encouraging additional footfall in the castle grounds through activities and improvements to the site, combined with improved visibility will discourage antisocial and criminal behaviour. Hertford Castle ward has a higher rate of crime than any other ward in East Hertfordshire so ensuring that the

grounds are not appealing as a site for illegal activities and that they are a place where people can feel safe would be very beneficial to locals and visitors alike.

Local organisations and their communities will also benefit from the project. Local schools (3 primary schools and 1 secondary school within 1 mile of Hertford Castle) will benefit from an improved local history resource and the opportunity for children to be involved with biodiversity surveying events. Hertford Theatre will benefit from being able to use the Ashley Webb Shelter as an outdoor performance venue. Local businesses may also benefit from increased tourism and catering opportunities as Hertford Castle develops as a heritage attraction and event venue.

It is not currently feasible to count the total number of visitors to the Castle grounds. The visitor numbers provided are estimates. Infra-red counters will be installed at the entrances to the grounds at the beginning of the Development phase to establish a baseline for daily visitor numbers.

Does your project involve heritage that attracts visitors?

Yes

How many visitors did you receive in the last financial year?

109500

The number of day to day visitors to Hertford Castle is not counted currently but is estimated to be around 300 every day. Infra-red counters will be installed at the entrances to the grounds at the beginning of the Development Phase to establish a baseline for daily visitor numbers.

The number of visitors for the annual Heritage Festival which currently lasts one day is approximately 3,500. The three day Christmas Market is the best attended event that Hertford Town Council currently runs attracting approximately 21,500 each year.

How many visitors a year do you expect on completion of your project?

136875

25% Estimated percentage increase in daily visitor numbers.

7,000 for festival (assuming making event twice as long will bring twice as many visitors) and 1500 (minimum 100 events throughout project x 15 attendees each) for other heritage events including Friends of Hertford Castle tours.

Will your project be delivered by a partnership?

Yes. East Hertfordshire District Council's partner for the project will be Hertford Town Council. The primary contact is Nick Kirby, Civic Administration Manager.

What measures will you take to increase positive environmental impacts and reduce negative environmental impacts? (5000 characters)

This project will have an inherent positive environmental impact due to habitat restoration elements. To maximise the benefit of these elements all of the plants used in restoring habitats will be native species and will be UK sourced for biosecurity reasons. The tree planting will follow the Miyawaki method of planting trees densely to encourage greater carbon sequestration and rapid development of diverse layered woodland community. Additionally where trees must be removed because the roots threaten historic features (but do not obscure them), the trees will be monolithed to create standing deadwood habitat or the timber used on site if possible.

The regency style planting scheme will focus on pollinator friendly plants and a small section of the gardens will be managed as a wildlife garden. Through hosting workshops on wildlife gardening and bug hotel making etc, local residents will be encouraged to create wildlife areas in their gardens as miniature habitat stepping stones which will bolster the habitats in the grounds.

The project will also encourage positive environmental changes in travel habits by installing bike racks near entrances and improved waymarking to facilitate active travel in line with the Town Centre Urban Development Strategy. Also, to facilitate greener travel options electric vehicle charging points will be installed in the new car park.

New furniture, including the new play equipment, will be sustainably sourced and locally sourced where practical. Materials will be reused on site wherever possible. Timber that needs to be felled to protect or facilitate views of historical structures will be used to create new furniture or berms or deflectors for the river enhancement. During the events, vendors will be encouraged to facilitate the use of reusable items such as travel mugs to reduce waste.

Visitors will be encouraged to only feed ducks and geese on the grass using appropriate feed to reduce the nutrient input into the river from discarded food and faeces and provide the wildfowl with a healthier diet.

We will also continue existing efforts to act sustainably such as having virtual project meetings when practical instead of face to face meetings to facilitate home working, minimising printing, and encouraging recycling and reusable items. Hertford Town Council will join Fit for the Future on behalf of the project partnership to identify additional means of improving the sustainability of activities within Hertford Castle Park and Gardens and the partnership.

How do you plan to acknowledge your grant? (5000 characters)

A page will be created on the Hertford Castle website at the start of the project explaining the project aims and acknowledging the support that the National Lottery Heritage Fund have provided. Updates will be posted on the page as the project progresses and it will be accessible via links on the Hertford Castle home page and the Hertford Castle Park and Gardens page on the East Herts Council website ([Hertford Castle Park & Gardens | East Herts Council](#)). Similar updates using #NationalLottery and #HeritageFund will be posted on social media.

The acknowledgement logo or stamp will also be displayed on all interpretation and publicity relating to the project. This will include notices around work areas informing visitors of the purpose and duration of works.

The primary physical feature commemorating the delivery of the project and celebrating the heritage of Hertford Castle will be a carved bench depicting key features of the project, such as the motte, the river. The carving will incorporate the NLHF logo. This bench will be carefully designed to blend with the regency style of the garden and provide visual and tactile interest. It will be made using timber felled on the site to minimise waste. A plaque will also be installed in a prominent place within the grounds, to be determined during development of the interpretation plan.

Throughout the development and delivery phases VIP events will be held for National Lottery players to thank them for their part in making the project possible. During the development phase this will include a guided tour of the gatehouse and castle grounds and the studies being carried out during this phase. During the delivery phase the VIP events may differ but will highlight the project progress. These VIP events will be developed further as part of the Activity Plan.

The advertisement of the Engagement Officer and Project Manager posts will state that the creation of the position was made possible by the NLHF grant.

The Heritage

Tell us about the heritage in your project and why it is important to your organisation and community. (5000 characters)

Hertford Castle is the cornerstone that Hertford was built upon and has over 1000 years of recorded history. The site has a storied past which shaped the country we live in today, having played host to church synods, kings and queens.

There is evidence of earlier settlements in or near Hertford but the first earth works were erected by King Edward the Elder in 912, to control a key ford on the River Lea, then a frontier between the Anglo-Saxon and Danish kingdoms. The motte next to the river has survived from one of the two burhs created by King Edward the Elder and was, in some respects, the foundation on which all subsequent versions of Hertford Castle were built. When the Normans conquered England they built the flint curtain walls, which have been repaired and stabilised using bricks in more recent years. In 1304 the Castle became a Royal Palace and for the next 300 years it was regularly used by the monarchs, sometimes as a prison for other royalty.

In 1463, the brick Gatehouse was built. During three outbreaks of plague in the 16th century the palace buildings housed Parliament, law courts and the Privy Councils. By 1600 though the castle proper had become very outdated and rundown. In 1608 the Palace buildings had been demolished and the gatehouse had become a private house, the south wing and Icehouse were added around 1790 and the north wing followed in the 1930s to leave the buildings as they stand today. Hertford Castle Gardens was opened to the public in 1912. The Friends of Hertford Castle play an important role in preserving and sharing the history of Hertford Castle and have inspired others to care about its history through their talks.

The Ashley Webb Shelter was erected in 1938 to commemorate the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth and is named after the former Mayor of Hertford who paid for its construction. The oak tree which this pavilion faces was planted by Her Majesty, the Queen Mother on 27th June 1973 to celebrate the 1300th anniversary of the Synod of Hertford in 973AD which was held within what later became the confines of Hertford Castle. Also commemorating the synod is an

engraved stone which was erected in 1934 near the gatehouse. Within the grounds there are also a few heritage assets not directly relating to the castle including: a boundary stone believed to date from the 18th century, a silver granite boulder of geological significance, and a sundial commemorating the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

The heritage that Hertford Castle represents is an important part of Hertford's identity as a historic town. Developing the grounds as a heritage attraction will add to Hertford's appeal as a tourism destination, contributing to Hertford Town Council's aim of improving the town's economic sustainability.

The castle, and by extension the town, owes much of its history to its location next to the River Lea near its confluences with the Beane, Mimram and Rib; as well as being a strategically valuable crossing point along the river which brought trade, it provided resources including fresh water and rich agricultural lands, without which the town would not have grown as it did. Because of how interconnected the natural heritage and cultural heritage of Hertford Castle are they ought to be celebrated together.

The ancient stone walls are noted for their ecology as well as their historical interest. Sites like this provide important habitat for lichen and moss communities, as well as some flowering plants, and invertebrate animals. The abundant wallflowers which it supports have been known on the walls here for over 150 years, in one of their only more or less natural sites in Hertfordshire.

The River Lea is a globally rare chalk river, identified as a priority habitat for protection in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, and despite being in poor condition it still provides an important corridor through the town for wildlife, both aquatic and terrestrial and is still one of the most popular features of the park as it brings a sense of tranquillity to visitors. The grassland retains some species associated with native meadow such as meadow saxifrage and the site contain a number of mature trees which could provide roosting sites and food sources for a range of animals. The castle grounds are currently used by common garden wildlife with the addition of mallards, mute swans and kingfisher. Otters, water voles and several species of bat have been recorded on the site in the past 20 years so it is likely the site has the potential to be a habitat for these priority species again.

Restoring the natural heritage in Hertford Castle grounds and encouraging the local community to value and protect it will aid in tackling the biodiversity crisis and make the local landscape more resilient to future threats. Hertford Town Council, East Herts Council and Hertfordshire County Council have committed to ensuring a sustainable future by restoring and protecting healthy ecosystems.

Type of Heritage [drop down]

Sub-type of Heritage [drop down]

Is the heritage considered to be at risk?

Yes

How is the heritage at risk? (5000 characters)

The curtain wall leading from the motte along the east and southern boundaries has a number of issues affecting its condition, leading to unfavourable status in light of the SAM and Grade II*

listings. None of the historic features present are currently on the Heritage at Risk Register, however there is sufficient concern about the condition that Hertford Castle may be put on the register.

Woody vegetation, including tree saplings and ivy, is growing in a number of places on the face of the walls. In addition to causing initial damage to the mortar, capping, brick and stonework, it allows further weathering action e.g. freeze/thaw and water ingress to the interior of the wall, which damages the wall even further. A sycamore tree growing on the corner of the wall by the motte is suspected to be affecting the structural integrity of the wall at this point. Conserving the curtain walls conflicts with conserving the lichen and plant communities they support. The conservation plan will need to be carefully developed with a prioritised schedule of vegetation removal to balance the conservation of the curtain wall and, if at all possible, retaining some vegetation to sustain this relatively rare growing habitat.

Woody vegetation as well as dense vegetation is also threatening the motte as it can encourage burrowing animals. In addition to this the base of the motte is currently vulnerable to erosion from the river and will become more so if the vegetation is removed. The ground of the SAM has already been eroded in places along the riverbank.

The Ashley Webb Shelter is not a listed building but does have some historic significance. It is subject to vandalism and is also threatened by excessive leaf litter damaging the roof.

The natural heritage of the site is also at risk. The castle grounds were previously designated as a local wildlife site but they have since lost this status as it no longer meets the criteria. The primary natural heritage feature is a stretch of the River Lea, a globally rare chalk river, which is badly degraded in this section, due to impoundment, bank erosion and silting up of the riverbed. The riverbanks have been eroded due to the lack of vegetation and animals entering and exiting the water. This has caused a widening of the river and combined with the impoundment has led to a very slow flow allowing silt to be deposited in the riverbed clogging up the characteristic gravel bed.

As a riparian owner, East Herts Council has a statutory duty to accept the natural flow from upstream and transfer it downstream without undertaking any activities which would obstruct, pollute or divert the water. These requirements are insufficient to improve the condition of the river or even completely prevent its condition worsening so this project aims to go beyond this requirement by stabilising the banks and improving flow diversity river connectivity in addition to enhancing adjacent habitats, including the back channel around the northwest of the island.

Crucially, the current lack of public understanding about the heritage of the site means that visitors are unlikely to value the heritage assets so they won't be motivated to protect and conserve them. This impacts upon the Council's ability to make positive changes and to generate support for funding initiatives.

Has a condition survey been undertaken for the heritage asset in the last five years?

No. The last survey for the castle wall was conducted 10 years ago.

Does the heritage have any formal designation?

1 SAM covering the remains of the Norman motte and the extent of the bailey including the buildings

1 Grade I listed building (C15th Gatehouse)

1 Grade II* listed building (Curtain walls)

1 Grade II listed building (C18th Icehouse)

In the Hertford conservation area (may not be an option)

(select from drop downs)

Will you be undertaking any capital work as part of your project? (5000 characters)

The capital works to be undertaken as part of this project in order of delivery are:

- A cantilever walkway will be built from the theatre to the base of the motte.
- Conservation works on the curtain wall.
- The two bridges crossing the Lea from the gardens to the island will be removed and replaced with a single bridge which provides an accessible crossing point for all visitors. The bridge into the grounds from the St Andrew Street car park will also be replaced with one which is fully accessible and provides a new vehicular access point for vehicles to the island.
- Some of the paths will be resurfaced to remove trip hazards and create a more cohesive appearance to the grounds.
- Bike racks and waymarking will be installed to facilitate active travel.
- River habitat improvements by way of reprofiling the riverbank and stabilising it using pre-planted coir mats to prevent erosion in the future, then adding gravel to raise the bed and create habitat for invertebrates and spawning fish.
- The weir or overspill structure may be modified following the recommendation of the feasibility study.
- Commissioning a series of sculptures which highlight the diversity in Hertford's history and its present population.
- Installing steps to the top of the motte.
- Refurbishing the Ashley Webb Shelter by repairing the roof and removing the west and southwest facing low walls to open views into the shelter. There will also be works to the area around the shelter including reducing hedges, lifting overhanging tree canopies to make the area less enclosed and more inviting.
- Installing new play equipment, which provides interactive interpretation, and removing the old play area.
- Terrestrial habitat improvements through tree planting where the old play equipment was removed and a wildflower margin created around the northwest edge of the grounds.
- Interpretation panels will be installed inside the Ashley Webb Shelter and a VR rendition of the castle as it would have been in the past will be made available for mobile devices. Downloadable leaflets will also be produced along with interpretation in any additional media identified as necessary during the development of the Interpretation Plan.
- Implementing a garden plan, incorporating a new landscape feature adjacent to the Icehouse that complements the garden and prevents visitors from using the mound for BMX riding.
- A new car park with additional spaces and vehicle charging points will be created where it will be screened from the view of the gatehouse.

Revenue costs for the project include developing conservation, garden and interpretation plans, annual vegetation management and garden planting, events, and staff costs.

If you are undertaking any capital work (including repair, refurbishment etc.) to land, buildings or heritage items, tell us who owns it. (5000 characters)

The riverbanks and the island north of the river where the habitat improvements will take place and where both the existing and proposed play areas are located are owned by East Herts Council. As the riparian owner, the bridges are also owned by East Herts Council. The main gardens, the Ashley Webb Shelter and Hertford Theatre are also owned by East Herts Council.

The Moat Gardens are owned by Hertford Town Council.

The Gatehouse and areas to the front and rear of the Gatehouse are owned by Lord Salisbury and leased to Hertford Town Council.

Please see the site ownership map for more details.

Are there are legal conditions, restrictions or covenants associated with the heritage asset which may affect your project? If so please provide details. (5000 characters)

The works to the river and bridges will require a bespoke Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP) from the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency has advised to start a FRAP application as soon as possible during following the feasibility study. FRAPs are typically valid for at least 3 years.

As grade listed buildings there are restrictions to the works which can be done on the gatehouse, icehouse and curtain walls. Similarly, there are restrictions to what can be done to the motte and the buildings and ground within the Scheduled Ancient Monument. Consent is required from the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport for physical works occurring within the SAM including the bank stabilisation, cantilever walkway, bridges, conservation of the curtain walls and motte, motte steps, new lighting, pavilion refurbishment, interpretation installation, and path resurfacing within in the SAM.

Because the grounds are within a conservation area permission is required form the Local Planning Authority for removal of trees or any significant work to trees.

Does your project involve the acquisition of a building, land or heritage items?

No

Managing your project

Has your organisation taken on a project of this scale in the last 5 years? If so please provide details. (5000 characters)

The 'Castle Park' project began development in 2014 and is now in the delivery stage, having received NLHF support.

Project focus:

Covering 6.8 hectares, Castle Park is the popular main town centre park in Bishop's Stortford.

Waytemore Castle

The remains of this Norman motte and bailey castle consist of a large, 12 metre high oval mound. The ruins of the castle keep are still evident at the top of the mound. The castle and mound are Grade 1 listed and designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Tall vegetation on the mound obscures the remains.

Park Landscape

The area surrounding a castle motte would once have hosted the castle bailey. The present day park is vital for the people of Bishop's Stortford, providing immediate access to a greenspace at the heart of the town, along with recreation opportunities, history and events.

Additional Historical Structures

Castle Park contains a Grade II listed yorkstone war memorial, a smaller Masonic memorial, and a granite drinking fountain.

River Stort

The Stort is linked to numerous aspects of the town's history. It was rerouted through Castle Park in straight, deep sided channels in the 1960s to allow for the expansion of the town centre. It is lined with self-seeded trees.

At risk:

Waytemore Castle was placed on the EHC 'Buildings at Risk' register in 2006 as Risk 1, Priority A. The condition survey has found the remnant walls to be in varying states of disrepair, with exposed sections of the wall core, embedded ivy, deeply rooted saplings and erosion by foot traffic. The mound itself is also subject to damage. The landscape around the two war memorials does not reflect their importance, meaning they suffer from underuse and a lack of public understanding. The River Stort is in a 'bad' ecological condition, offering little natural heritage to visitors.

Outcomes:

A functional landscape

The park will be zoned into clearly defined but well connected areas that showcase the different features of the park. The historic heritage around Waytemore Castle will transition through the biodiversity corridor of the River Stort, to the events, play and recreation areas in Sworder's Field.

Protecting and Promoting Waytemore Castle

A condition survey has outlined proposals for protecting the remnant masonry, including removal of vegetation, consolidation and soft capping of the walls. Lower sections of the wall will be built up to give a greater visual representation of the previous extent of the castle, while discouraging climbing on the masonry.

To portray the castle prominently within the landscape a lighting scheme will be installed that provides a gentle glow to the mound and the wall. Wildflower planting around the base of the mound will add visual appeal.

Presenting the memorials in the landscape

A new formal garden will be developed around the two war memorials and the drinking fountain, allowing visitors to appreciate them.

Repurposing the buildings

Three buildings at the western end of the park currently provide an unattractive entrance into the park and convey little value to visitors. These consist of:

- a closed toilet block,
- two garages, now used for storage, and
- a 1960s built pavilion, containing two community rooms.

Based upon extensive discussions with user groups, these buildings will be partially demolished and partially refurbished to provide:

- A new community room.
- A café, which will provide income to support the sustainable maintenance of the park.
- Publicly accessible toilets, including a Changing Places facility.

All buildings will be timber clad to improve their visual appearance.

Relocating the tennis courts

To open up the area around the castle, the tennis courts will be removed and the area grassed over. New tennis courts will be constructed to the north of Sworder's Field, linking with the other recreation the park has to offer.

Rejuvenation of the River Stort

The Stort will be revitalised to become a vibrant feature that provides valuable habitat and helps link the two sides of the park. Selective reduction in tree cover will increase light in the river corridor, encouraging the establishment of marginal vegetation. This will benefit a range of wildlife including otters and water voles which have both recently been reintroduced in the area. A series of brush berms will be constructed by volunteers to further encourage marginal habitat and create flow diversity.

Engaging people with the river

To ensure people have the ability to enjoy and interact with the river a new bridge will be built with an associated pontoon. This will facilitate access to the river edge and use of canoes and kayaks.

Creating a space for teenagers

The park is well used by older children and teenagers. To give them a space of their own in the park, an outdated recreational space will be significantly upgraded to allow for social gathering and provide recreation facilities. The design of the space was produced in close consultation with young people.

Tell us why this is the most appropriate project for your organisation to take on at this time. (5000 characters)

East Herts Council manage over 120 open spaces across the District including 5 destination parks of which this is one. Castle Park in Bishop's Stortford and Pishiobury Park in Sawbridgeworth are currently being developed with Lottery support. Southern Country Park in Bishop's Stortford has been developed over the last 5 years. Hartham Common benefitted from a completely new play space and entrance landscape last year.

Improvements at Castle Grounds in Hertford have been planned as the last major park development outlined several years ago in our Parks Planning strategy.

As the Castle Park project in Bishop's Stortford and the theatre development comes to an end in 2024 there can be a natural shift of resource to support this new project. The Town Council and East Herts Council have worked collaboratively to develop a comprehensive management plan for the park. They are at a good phase in their ongoing focus to revitalise the town centre to now realise the ambitions for these grounds.

CMS have been crucial to the success of our National Lottery funded projects. They have recently expanded and so have sufficient capacity to support this project.

Does your organisation need to undertake any capacity building activity to better deliver your project? (5000 characters)

East Herts Council and Hertford Town Council will need to build capacity within one of the organisations for running and promoting events as well as publicising the progress of the project. To this end an Engagement Officer role will be created with East Herts Council but based at the Hertford Town Council offices to facilitate close working with the town council's existing events manager for Hertford Castle. To ensure accessibility of the site, events and interpretation accessibility training such as that offered by AccessibleUK will also be required for staff and volunteers with relevant roles and responsibilities.

A dedicated project manager is required to ensure cohesion between different elements of the project and liaise with the NLHF. The Project Manager role will be created with East Herts Council which will allow them to benefit from the learning and experience of colleagues involved in similar projects like 'Castle Park' more efficiently.

Evaluation training will need to be arranged for the project team to ensure they collect suitable evidence throughout development and delivery to enable a thorough final evaluation. This could be delivered internally if the Project Manager already possesses the relevant knowledge and skills or could be arranged with an external company.

Volunteers will require training relevant to their roles. Training on the safe handling of tools can be delivered in collaboration with CMS who have extensive experience organising and running

volunteer activities. Volunteers involved in the delivery of events will be expected to attend induction training relating to health and safety and providing accessible events.

Additional training and resources required in the delivery phase may be identified during the development phase.

Tell us about any jobs or apprenticeships that you will create to deliver your project. (5000 characters)

Community Engagement Officer

The Community Engagement Officer will be responsible for engaging stakeholders and members of the community with the project and the heritage it will protect. This will include:

- maintaining a positive and highly visible public profile to promote the project and its events and activities
- developing and maintaining relationships with collaborating organisations to ensure events realise their potential
- identifying demographic groups which are not engaging with the castle's heritage then liaise with them to remove barriers to them and encourage participation
- developing the Activity and Interpretation Plans through engagement with stakeholders and specialist consultants
- organising, publicising and delivering events which appeal to a broad range of participants in collaboration with external organisations
- enabling volunteer participation in events at a range of levels in a structured and supportive environment

Project Manager

The Project Manager will be responsible for overseeing the project as whole, ensuring the different elements of the project link together and develop in a way that will deliver a coherent identity for the park, and ensuring the project is delivered on time and to budget. This will include:

- Holding regular meetings with the project team and NLHF representatives to monitor the project and adapt to ensure successful delivery
- Supporting the project team and ensuring they are appropriately resourced, including arranging training as necessary
- Creating regular financial and progress reports with input from the project team and presenting these to relevant stakeholders including the NLHF
- Developing and maintaining relationships with collaborating organisations and stakeholders to maximise the impact of and opportunities for the project
- Developing a concept and design strategy as part of the masterplan and working with each of the working groups in the design of their respective areas
- Negotiating and managing contracts with third parties, ensuring that they provide high quality products and services
- Ensuring the timely submission of the Delivery Phase application to the NLHF.

Both of these roles are described in more detail in the job descriptions provided with this application. Both roles will be continued in the delivery phase following a new round of recruitment.

What work will you do during the development phase of your project? (5000 characters)

Recruitment for the Project Manager role will start as soon as possible in the development phase. The condition survey of the historic structures in the grounds will be updated during the first 6 months of the project. During the same period a feasibility study to determine the most appropriate style of fish pass for the Hertford Castle weir will be undertaken.

Sensors will be installed at the entrances to the grounds at the start of the development phase to record visitor numbers and establish a baseline which outcomes can be measured against throughout the delivery phase.

The role of Engagement Officer will be filled in autumn, as they will need to be in place to develop the interpretation and activity plans. Accessibility training will be organised for shortly after the new Engagement Officer joins Hertford Town Council to ensure the interpretation and activity plans developed in the following few months are inclusive. Development of the bridge, play area and Ashely Webb Shelter designs will begin by the end of autumn.

During the second half of our development phase we will develop the SAM conservation plan, garden plan, travel plan, activity plan and interpretation plan, each of which will include at least one round of consultation with stakeholders. These documents will guide and support our applications for funds from other sources. The Flood Risk Activity Permit and Scheduled Monument Consent will be secured during the final 4 months of the development phase.

Geophysical surveying will take place during winter or early spring, with an associated public event taking place during spring. Youth nature events will be organised for the spring and summer of 2024 which will help to establish a baseline for the biodiversity and, by proxy, the condition of the natural heritage of the site. The Delivery Phase Application will be submitted for the spring deadline.

The youth nature events are planned to happen throughout the warmer months from May to September and may be run in co-operation with larger efforts such as the BioBlitz and may either be closed events organised with youth groups or schools or may be open to the public.

Who are the main people responsible for the work during the development phase of your project? (5000 characters)

Roles and Responsibilities within East Herts Council

Project Manager (position to be filled at the start of the development phase):

- Leading Heritage working group
- Managing delivery of the river feasibility study
- Managing delivery of the condition survey and Conservation Plan
- Managing delivery of the Garden Plan
- Developing the Master Plan
- Support development of Interpretation Plan / Activity Plan / Travel Plan
- Developing partnership and stakeholder relationships

- Submitting additional funding applications
- Securing FRAP permit
- Securing Scheduled Monument Consent
- Developing bridge and playground specifications
- Developing the Delivery Phase application

Engagement Officer (position to be filled at the start of the development phase):

- Leading Engagement working group
- Organising, promoting and running youth nature and geophysical events
- Publishing project updates on webpage and social media
- Liaising with collaborating organisations to create broad range of events
- Collecting visitor baseline data and liaising with site users to inform development of plans
- Developing the Activity Plan
- Developing the Interpretation Plan

Ian Sharratt, Parks and Open Spaces Manager:

- Recruiting for the Project Manager role
- Recruitment for the Engagement Officer post
- Ensuring co-ordination with Theatre development
- Ensuring co-ordination with wider East Herts strategies

Roles and responsibilities within Hertford Town Council

Steve Catherall, Town Centre Project Officer:

- Leading Infrastructure working group
- Ensuring co-ordination with the town centre development
- Developing the Travel Plan

Nick Kirby, Civic Administration Manager:

- Ensuring co-ordination with wider Hertford Town Council strategies

Roles and Responsibilities within Countryside Management Service (Hertfordshire County Council)*:

Sarah Roberts, Land Management Project Officer:

- Leading Biodiversity working group
- Procurement of river feasibility study (prior to recruitment of the Project Manager)
- Procurement of condition survey (prior to recruitment of the Project Manager)
- Arranging accessibility training
- Reviewing Greenspace Action Plan and updating to reflect new timescales

- Supporting development of other plans
- Supporting development of Delivery Phase application

*CMS provide advice on land management and arrange practical work through arranging contractors and managing groups of volunteers on the behalf of East Herts Council. The Council pays CMS an annual contribution towards their costs as part of a larger District wide arrangement.

HTC and EHC largely manage the lands they own and lease separately with the exception that the town council currently manage the grounds maintenance for all the grounds south of the river not including responsibility for the trees, structures and hard surfaces.

**Who are the main people responsible for the work during the delivery phase of your project?
(5000 characters)**

Roles and Responsibilities within East Herts Council

Project Manager (position to be filled at the start of the delivery phase):

- Developing partnership and stakeholder relationships
- Liaising with NLHF
- Arranging vegetation works to protect historic structures
- Procurement and managing delivery of repairs to historic structures
- Procurement and managing delivery of bridge replacement
- Procurement and managing delivery of path resurfacing and active travel infrastructure
- Procurement and managing delivery of additional travel infrastructure (car park)
- Procurement and managing delivery of interpretation materials

Engagement Officer (position to be filled at the start of the delivery phase):

- Leading Engagement working group
- Organising, promoting and running events
- Arranging and running volunteer activities
- Publishing project updates on webpage and social media
- Liaising with collaborating organisations to create broad range of events
- Collecting visitor data and liaising with site users
- Developing interpretation materials

Ian Sharratt, Parks and Open Spaces Manager:

- Recruiting for the Project Manager role
- Recruitment for the Engagement Officer post
- Ensuring co-ordination with wider East Herts strategies

Roles and responsibilities within Hertford Town Council

Steve Catherall, Town Centre Project Officer:

- Leading Infrastructure working group
- Ensuring co-ordination with the town centre development

Nick Kirby, Civic Administration Manager:

- Co-ordinating with Mudlarks for the garden improvements
- Ensuring co-ordination with wider Hertford Town Council strategies

Roles and Responsibilities within Countryside Management Service (Hertfordshire County Council)*:

Sarah Roberts, Land Management Project Officer:

- Leading Biodiversity working group
- Procurement and delivery of habitat enhancement works
- Supporting development of interpretation

The Friends of Hertford Castle is a small group of volunteers that assist Hertford Town Council with open days, tours and events throughout the year. They undertake tours of the gatehouse and some tours of the Castle Grounds. Six tour events are generally held each year with visitor donations going to the Mayor of Hertford's Charity. The Friends of Hertford Museum also run occasional walks through the Castle Grounds for visitors to learn about the history, this normally links to a wider walk round the town. During the delivery phase of the project the Friends of Hertford Castle will deliver a series of events and assist with the development of interpretation materials relating to the built and cultural heritage. The Friends of Hertford Castle may expand during the delivery phase to incorporate volunteers focused on the maintenance and interpretation of the natural heritage to complement the existing volunteers, whose main focus is the preservation and communication of Hertford Castle's history.

What work will you do during the delivery phase of your project? (5000 characters)

Assuming a start date in autumn the first actions to be delivered will be increasing the annual range of heritage events offered at Hertford Castle, including extending the heritage festival to a two day event, and installing the cantilever walkway at the base of the motte.

The wildflower margins in the area north of the river will be sown in October of the first year, these areas will then be cut annually in late summer after the plants have gone to seed. The bridges will be commissioned by the end autumn with a view to installing the bridge from the north entrance to the site to the island between February and July 2025.

The majority of the vegetation works required including those necessary to protect historic structures and improve sightlines will be conducted in the first winter of the delivery phase, followed by more routine maintenance each subsequent winter. Any further works to the curtain wall which are identified in the conservation plan will be delivered as soon as possible following the removal of detrimental vegetation.

The regency style garden plan will be adopted the following spring. The river restoration will take place after the existing bridge from the St Andrew's Street car park has been removed and the new vehicle access bridge is in place, during the summer 2025 when wildlife will be disturbed the least and the water level will be relatively low, making volunteer tasks safer. Sculptures are also intended to be installed during the summer as this would be the preferred time to hold an unveiling event. The playground will be commissioned by the end of the summer 2025.

In late summer or early autumn 2025 steps and viewing platform will be installed on the motte to enable public access without risking damage to the motte. The virtual reality resource will be commissioned around this time with a view to being launched in the third summer.

The new playground will be built and the old playground dismantled in early winter 2025/26, allowing trees will be planted before March where the old playground is currently located to expand the wooded area around the north and west of the island. The new physical interpretation will be developed over winter to be installed, in spring ready for the events of the third year of delivery. The new car park will also be built in spring 2026. The pavilion refurbishments will also be commissioned during this time with a view to being delivered the following autumn.

The second bridge, next to the motte, will be installed in summer 2026. At the same time the preferred modifications to the weir structures to enable fish passage, based on the recommendation of the feasibility study, will be made. The virtual reality resource will also be launched in the summer.

During the final autumn the pavilion will be refurbished, ready for artistic displays the following spring and summer. The remaining interpretation will be designed over winter to be published online in spring 2027. The path resurfacing and installation of bike racks and waymarking will be arranged for the final spring of the delivery phase.

A project evaluation report and an updated management and maintenance plan will be developed during the final winter and spring.

How do you plan to cash flow the delivery phase of your project? (5000 characters)

East Herts Council and Hertford Town Council possess combined reserve funds of £100,000 available for this project (£50,000 each), which is sufficient to cashflow smaller elements of the project

Community Infrastructure Levy funds are available to contribute towards the costs of the play area, bridges and river enhancement. These funds can be paid towards the provision of specified community assets at the time of invoice.

The Environment Agency will contribute towards the costs of the river enhancement.

To support the cost of the bridges and walkway East Herts Council would like permission from the NLHF to claim the grant on invoice.

Delivery start date and end date.

Start September/October 2024

End June 2027

Are there any fixed deadlines or key milestones that will restrict your project's timetable? (5000 characters)

The consent granted for the cantilever walkway is valid for 5 years from 17 June 2020 so the walkway must be built within this timeframe. Flood Risk Activity Permits are typically valid for at least 3 years therefore the river restoration is planned to be completed within this time frame.

There are seasonal constraints to some elements of the project. In particular the river restoration works should not take place during the fish breeding season between November and January. Wildflower establishment is most successful if seeds are sown in early autumn, similarly tree establishment is most successful when whips or saplings are planted before the end of March while they are still dormant.

The public events primarily happen from April to October, so it is practical to plan the majority of works not to hinder these. Furthermore, some elements of the project must be delivered before others for practical reasons, e.g. the river re-naturalisation should take place after the bridge over the river is replaced as this will have exposed additional bank, and the pavilion refurbishment should be complete before the interpretation panels are installed in the pavilion.

Project Outcomes

How will your project involve a wider range of people? (5,000 characters)

Firstly, the current barriers to engaging with heritage at Hertford Castle will be removed. By consulting organisations representing minority groups such as Access for All and Herts Equality Council we will ensure inclusiveness and accessibility in all aspects, from the promotion and running of events to recruiting volunteers to interpretation, with safe spaces to suit every visitor as advocated in the Healthy Parks Framework developed by UCL.

Creating step free access and widening the bridges into and within the grounds will remove physical barriers while, using more diverse media, such as braille, audio, VR, art, and tactile features, in interpretation materials will make the information more accessible and engaging for more visitors. We will seek advice from organisations like the Sensory Trust in developing the interpretation plan to ensure that interpretation is suitably accessible for all visitors. The new themed play area, the design of which will be inspired by Hertford Castle, will also help to engage our youngest visitors with the history of the grounds.

There may also be less obvious barriers such as perceptions of being unsafe or unwelcome. Many minorities may feel that Hertford Castle grounds is not designed with them in mind or that the heritage of the grounds doesn't belong to them and so they may not feel that the grounds would be interesting or even welcoming for them. By publicising the accessible features and other facilities of the site online, representing various minority groups among the art and events in the grounds, and acknowledging how minorities have shaped the history of Hertford, we will change this perception. Additional travel infrastructure and creation of a travel plan will also make it easier for people to visit. Furthermore the pavilion refurbishments, reduction in obscured areas and anticipated increase in visitors are intended to make the grounds a safer place to visit. Making the site a safer and more

welcoming place with more diverse and engaging displays will encourage new visitors to come to Hertford Castle and existing visitors to stay longer and learn about the heritage of Hertford Castle.

Secondly, there will be active efforts to involve groups not currently engaging with heritage at Hertford Castle. The first events to actively engage people will be the geophysical surveying event and the youth nature events starting during the development phase. In the delivery phase these will be complemented with history tours for local primary schools and new public events aimed at families. There will also be events targeting other audiences or aiming to appeal to as wide an audience as possible. To maximise the quality of these events we aim to run them in co-operation with other organisations; for events exploring the history of the castle and town the Friends of Hertford Castle, Hertford Civic Society and Hertford and Ware Local History Society have been invited to collaborate, for events looking at the natural heritage of the site Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre and Hertfordshire Natural History Society will be involved, and static and performing arts events will be run with support from Courtyard Arts, Manic Ceramics and Hertford Theatre. All of the events will be designed and run utilising learning from accessibility training to maximise the inclusiveness of the range of events. To this end we will endeavour to provide alternative methods for people to book events in addition to an online booking system.

There will also be self guided events supported by downloadable resources (also available from the town council offices during opening hours) including history walks, sensory trails and scavenger hunts for distinctive wildlife or historic features. There may also be competitions for the creative arts (painting, photography, creative writing, poetry etc.) with themes relating to the wildlife, history and culture of Hertford. The winning entries would be displayed online and, for a limited time, in the Ashley Webb Shelter.

There will also be a series of volunteering opportunities associated with the habitat improvements and heritage events, notably the tree planting which a number of community organisations will be invited to take part in as well as the event being open to the wider public. Organisations such as YC Hertfordshire and the Positive Alternatives Project which provide a positive alternative to ASB through conservation activities will be invited to take part in volunteering tasks. Hertford Town Council have worked with Mudlarks for several years and will be able to learn from their experience helping volunteers get the most out of volunteering for the events we deliver.

This output will be measured and evidenced by participant feedback and numbers at events and the number of day to day visitors to the castle grounds as well as survey data collected for each year.

Will your project achieve any of our other outcomes? If so please provide details.

Heritage will be in a better condition (5,000 characters)

As noted in "The Heritage" section of this application the curtain wall is being damaged by the roots plants growing on and close to the wall. During the development phase a detailed conservation plan will be developed to ensure that appropriate actions are followed to ensure the condition of the curtain wall is at least preserved if not improved. This is expected to include preventing further growth of the aforementioned vegetation as a minimum. Working with Historic England to develop a long-term maintenance plan will help the Council to manage resources and to safeguard the future of the site's historical assets. The Ashley Webb Shelter will be refurbished in a way that preserves its historic significance and enhances its value to the local community.

As previously stated the river is in poor condition due to impoundment, excessive silt accumulation and bank erosion, and there is scope to improve the surrounding habitats as well. To improve the quality of the river, parts of the bank will be reprofiled to a shallower slope and stabilised using pre-planted coir mats to prevent erosion in the future. Vertical banks will be stabilised using either a stone revetment or spiling. Gravel will be added to the river to create a substrate and depth which is more typical for a natural chalk river. Berms will be created in the river and back channel to diversify the flow rate and create a more natural sequence of riffles, glides and pools. The gravel bed will be kept clear of silt in the riffles by the higher rate of flow such that it stays suitable habitat for a range of aquatic invertebrates and spawning fish, while glides and pools are used by fish at other life stages and other wildlife. We also intend to modify the operating procedures at Hertford Castle weir to improve the habitat connectivity in the downstream direction. This element of the project will be delivered in coordination with the Environment Agency and Middle Lea Catchment Partnership and is listed on their project webpage.

Establishing a conservation cut on the margins of the island and seeding these areas with wildflowers will increase the diversity of flowering plants in the grounds benefitting pollinators and providing tall grasses which many invertebrates and small mammals require for shelter from weather and predators. The woodland planting will expand the habitat available to species which rely on trees as well as creating a screen between the road and the park.

Trees within the grassland areas would benefit from root protection, having long grass maintained throughout the growing season would reduce trampling effects under the tree as well as damage from equipment. It would also help to maintain soil and moisture round the base of the trees. This would add structural diversity to the grassland and add some visual variation.

The improvements to the condition of the heritage assets present will be measured and evidenced using data from the volunteer based ecological surveys as well as professional WFD survey and fixed point photography.

Heritage will be identified and better explained (5,000 characters)

As previously noted some of the historic features of the site are difficult to view at present. The motte is largely hidden by fencing and overshadowed by trees. There is tall vegetation growing on the motte and in front of the curtain wall. The existing interpretation consists of five visual text and image based panels dotted around the site, one of which provides a timeline of the noteworthy events in the castle's history while the rest provide more detailed information on the curtain wall, the gate house, and how the castle would have looked in Norman times and in Tudor times. There are a handful of events each year focussing on the history of the castle and its grounds: an annual heritage festival and around six tours run by the Friends of Hertford Castle each year. Currently there are no interpretation materials or events focussing on the natural heritage at Hertford Castle.

Firstly the historic features will be turned into a focal point by redesigning the infrastructure and clearing the obscuring vegetation. Lighting will be improved where possible (careful consideration will be given to ensure the additional lighting has minimal negative impacts on wildlife, especially bats). The garden plan should aim to guide the eye towards features of interest in the historic structures as well adopting a regency style which reflects the historic setting. The car park will be moved away from the front of the gatehouse to improve the context in which the gatehouse is viewed and encourage visitors to envisage it as it would have been in the past.

Secondly, additional and more diverse interpretation materials will explain the both the cultural and natural heritage of the grounds in ways which are accessible to a wider audience. It will highlight the history of the site and bring it to life with opportunities to interact with the historic and natural environment including a virtual reality resource which shows the grounds as they would have been in the past. The new interpretation will be consistent with the design palette adopted for the existing interpretation to enhance the visitor experience by establishing a cohesive identity for Hertford Castle Grounds. Consistent interpretation combined with gardens and play equipment which are in keeping with the historic character of the site will make the grounds as a whole better defined as a heritage attraction. The location of the Ashley Webb shelter next to the motte makes it an ideal location for interpretation panels explaining the history of the site; these will be designed with versatility in mind such that they can be used to hang set dressings during performances. Hertford Theatre intends to produce plays connected to and inspired by the heritage of Hertford enabling visitors to engage with heritage in an additional way in Hertford Castle.

Interpretation of the park's history at the more personal level of a guided walk greatly enhances the visitor experience and understanding of the importance of a site. Expanding the opportunities for visitors to join such events, both those exploring the history and those highlighting the wildlife of the site, would be a major boost to engage visitors in the rich culture and heritage of the park. Following the biodiversity surveying events a summary of the results will be published online as part of the regular updates relating to the project while the full results will be held by the local environmental records centre. The results of the geophysical survey and the associated public event will allow people to learn about archaeological techniques and connect with a part of Hertford Castle's heritage which is normally hidden.

The improvements to the identification and explanation of the heritage will be measured and evidenced using examples of the new interpretation materials, participant numbers for heritage events and visitor surveys.

People will have developed skills (5,000 characters)

This is not a target outcome for the project however there will be opportunities for personal development for people from a range of backgrounds and ages.

The youth nature events will provide under 16s with opportunities to develop species identification skills. Having developed connections with youth groups we will be able to promote opportunities throughout the project for young adults to develop other skills while working towards activity badges. By expanding existing connections with Mudlarks and the Countryside Management Service and developing new connections, with YC Hertfordshire for example, there will be opportunities for people to develop skills through volunteering at environmental conservation tasks and events. The events offered to the public will include heritage craft workshops where they can learn new skills such as willow weaving or wood carving.

Producing the virtual reality resource in collaboration with University of Hertfordshire would enable students to hone their skills developing a product which will have a real world use as innovative interpretation material, and boost their career prospects following graduation.

Staff and volunteers involved in organising and hosting events will also receive accessibility training to ensure the events are open and welcoming to as wide an audience as possible. Other training opportunities for staff and volunteers will also be developed as required.

People will have learned about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions (5,000 characters)

This is not a target outcome for the project however by encouraging members of the public to develop an understanding of their local heritage through interpretation materials and events we expect to raise the value they place on it so that they will be motivated to help care for and protect it. Improving the opportunities to take part in volunteer activities will provide an avenue for people to act on that motivation in a tangible and rewarding way and at the same time foster a sense of ownership which will heighten its value to local communities further. Having been introduced to volunteering networks through the project it is our hope that participants from a number of the events take up volunteering more regularly.

We also aim to run workshop events such as wildlife friendly gardening sessions alongside volunteering sessions which will not only teach attendees about the heritage in an interactive way but provide them with the skills and knowledge to enact changes which will support the actions delivered directly through the project.

People will have greater wellbeing (5,000 characters)

This is not a target outcome for the project however the most recent Greenspace Action Plan places a greater focus on improving the wellbeing of residents by ensuring an inviting and safe space to relax, socialise, exercise and learn within a more biodiverse natural space. Studies show that natural spaces improve the mental health of those that visit them and suggest that such improvements increase with biodiversity. Combined with improved sense of safety in the grounds due to the improved sightlines, the increase in biodiversity at Hertford Castle should deliver noticeable benefits for the mental health of visitors to the site. The improvements to the accessibility of the site should also mean that these benefits can be enjoyed by a wider range of people.

There will be more opportunities to take part in activities and volunteering which deliver physical health benefits as well as the mental benefits of spending time in nature. Such activities can also provide a social element which has been proven to improve mental health. Though there is not currently a dedicated green social prescribing offer in Hertfordshire a number of these activities could be delivered in collaboration CDA Herts to ensure they reach communities which are most in need of the opportunities they create, including the elderly and those suffering from poor mental health. In addition to holding heritage and volunteering events we intend to promote the park as a place for open air physical activities by organising a range of sports and exercise sessions with a mix of intensity levels with support from Active East Herts.

The tree planting once the existing playground has been replaced will provide a screen from the road after it has had time to grow reducing air and noise pollution in the park in the long term. Miyawaki planting (dense planting) causes trees to grow up to ten times faster than conventional planting schemes enabling this benefit to be delivered in the shortest possible timeframe. In the short term, positioning the new playground away from road will reduce the air pollution children will be exposed to when using the play equipment.

By reducing the number of obscured areas and encouraging more visitors in the park we expect that occurrences of ASB will diminish as the grounds will present fewer opportunities to execute such behaviour unnoticed.

The funded organisation will be more resilient (5,000 characters)

This is not a target outcome for the project so will not be measured as a means of evaluating the success and impact of the project however East Herts Council are committed to increasing resilience and improving the financial sustainability of the parks and open spaces they own and manage.

The expanded heritage festival will lead to additional bookings from stall holders. The improved aesthetic appeal of the grounds with the new garden design and natural views is also expected to lead to an increase in wedding bookings for Hertford Town Council.

East Herts Council and Hertford Town Council will be able to better fulfil their roles as local authorities by creating a better place for their residents to live. The staff training in accessibility will also enable the local authorities to serve their residents effectively when delivering future projects and events.

East Herts Council and Hertford Town Council will also strengthen connections with other organisations throughout the project putting the councils in a better position to deliver events after the completion of the project.

The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit (5,000 characters)

Hertford Castle Grounds provides the people of Hertford and the wider District with a unique community asset that can be utilised to improve the quality of people's lives in so many different ways, from providing an enjoyable stroll to a premier venue for hosting quality events.

At a fundamental level there will be aesthetic improvements to the historic structures, gardens and ecological habitats which will make the castle grounds a more pleasant place to visit, increasing people's enjoyment of the park. The improvements to the identification and interpretation of the heritage will provide added interest for all site users, contributing to Hertford's identity as a vibrant historic town. In addition, creating a more cohesive identity for Hertford Castle as a heritage attraction with better signposting both to points of interest inside and outside the grounds will improve the experience of visitors who aren't familiar with the area by making it easier to navigate. The new walkway and active travel infrastructure will contribute to the development of a high quality accessible network of routes and spaces. An improved understanding of and connection to heritage will also give people a sense of pride in the Hertford Castle and their town. The additional static and performance art, which will become a regular feature at Hertford Castle building on the music events and arts trails which Hertford Town Council already host, will also contribute to the Hertford's cultural offer.

The new playground will provide local parents and carers with a more engaging way to keep children active and entertained than the previous playground. Having a play area designed as interactive interpretation will both enable children to connect with the heritage of Hertford Castle and promote imaginative play. Creating step free access throughout the site along with new surfaces on sections of the path and installing new bike racks near the entrances will facilitate active travel and complement the town centre development, facilitating people of all mobility levels in getting around the grounds and the wider town.

As noted in the previous section on wellbeing, the project will deliver benefits to the mental and physical health of those who visit the castle grounds. Higher quality natural spaces and activities

which create opportunities to socialise will improve mental wellbeing and improved sightlines and site use will ensure visitors feel safer, reducing stress. In addition to becoming an attractive destination the river bank will have better links to connect it into the wider town centre creating new ways to access this natural asset. The range of physical activities taking place combined with the improved convenience of active travel options will make it easier for residents to exercise more. All of the main features of the site will now be away from the road and separated by a screen to reduce the air and noise pollution in the grounds. The increased chance of being seen will deter anti social behaviour in the grounds while volunteer activities delivered in collaboration with relevant organisations will provide a positive alternative.

The project has had inclusiveness in mind from its conception and this will remain a core aim throughout its delivery. Improving the accessibility of the site and making it a more inviting place to visit for minorities will mean the project has an even greater impact on the quality of Hertford as a place to live, work and visit for these communities.

The improvements to the local area as a place to live, work and visit will be measured and evidenced with visitor surveys supported by fixed point photos and attendance of relevant events and activities.

The local economy will be boosted (5,000 characters)

This is not a target outcome for the project however by increasing the value of the site as a heritage attraction, this project will add to the offer of cultural attractions and help to bring more visitors to Hertford benefitting tourism businesses. An increase in wedding bookings as a result of the improved aesthetic appeal of the grounds would also benefit local catering, photography etc. businesses.

After the Project Ends

How will you maintain the outcomes of your project after the grant ends and meet any additional running costs? (5,000 characters)

The Greenspace action plan is updated every 5 years, outlining necessary actions to maintain the heritage assets and site furniture as well as identifying suitable funds for the delivery of prescribed actions. These GAPs are developed through ongoing rounds of public engagement to ensure the site is improved with consideration to changing community needs.

Opportunities for volunteers to be involved with regular actions required to maintain the natural heritage of the site and biodiversity events will continue. Because these and several of the other events do not incur any cost due to the generosity of volunteers from local organisations, they can continue beyond the end of the project. The heritage festival is financially self-sustaining as the fees paid by vendors to hold stalls cover the costs of entertainment and administration.

Additional income from increased wedding venue bookings is anticipated due to the increased aesthetic appeal of the site. Also, once refurbished the Ashley Webb Shelter may become an

attractive venue for people wanting an outdoor wedding. This may help finance the continuation of the Engagement Officer post and additional heritage events for which there is popular demand.

How will you ensure that the skills and knowledge developed whilst delivering your project are embedded within your organisation once it has ended? (5,000 characters)

Skills learnt by staff including how to ensure accessibility and inclusiveness will continue to be used in other projects, which will both benefit these future projects and prevent these skills falling out of practice. Establishing the value of training and the impact it has had through thorough evaluation will justify similar training for future staff. In addition, keeping accurate records and evaluation of the project will enable future staff as well as other organisations to learn from it.

At the end of the NLHF funded roles the post holders will be invited to exit interviews to identify suitable alternative roles within the organisation to enable the skills and experience they have developed to be retained. The Engagement Officer position may continue if there is sufficient increased revenue to support it and popular demand for the events programme established during the project.

How will you evaluate the success of your project and share the learning? (5,000 characters)

Most of the target outcomes are qualitative and difficult to measure directly but the visitor surveys will be the primary method of direct measurement. We will begin surveying visitors to establish baseline data during summer 2023 and will refine the survey questions throughout the Development Phase where required to better measure the desired outputs and outcomes. We will measure and assess the outputs and outcomes achieved for anthropogenic heritage and natural heritage separately.

The visitor survey includes questions on demographic information and the purpose and frequency of visits which will allow us to determine whether a wider range of people are visiting Hertford Castle and whether a wider range are visiting specifically to engage with heritage. Participant numbers and feedback from heritage events and volunteer tasks will also be used to gauge the number of people benefitting and engaging with heritage as a result. The majority of the surveys are expected to be completed online for efficiency however to avoid excluding people suffering from digital poverty alternative methods of providing feedback, for example hardcopy survey forms or phone based surveys, will be available.

To confirm that the anthropogenic heritage is in better condition fixed point photos will be taken and the repairs made will be recorded as an appendix to the conservation plan. The condition of the natural heritage will be measured using data from the volunteer based ecological surveys supported by the volunteer hours contributed to conservation tasks and fixed point photography. The biodiversity surveys will be the primary method of measuring the condition of natural heritage as the abundance of indicator species is a well established proxy for habitat quality.

To demonstrate the improvements to the identification and explanation of both natural and anthropogenic heritage the physical assets and improvements to visibility of the heritage will be evidenced using electronic copies of the new interpretation materials and fixed point photos. The heritage events will be evidenced using participant numbers. Participant feedback from events and

visitor surveys will be used to measure whether the physical improvements and events have had the desired effect and increased understanding of the heritage.

The quality of the grounds as a whole and the impact this has on Hertford as a place to live, work and visit will be gauged using visitor surveys and numbers. An increase in the total number of visitors to the park would also indicate an increase in the overall appeal of Hertford Castle including the impact of events. The actions which have delivered aesthetic improvements, i.e. the habitat restoration, garden replant, sculptures and conservation of historic structures, as well as the improvements to access and facilities, will be evaluated using fixed point photos. Participant feedback forms from events and visitor surveys should indicate whether the project has achieved the desired increase in inclusiveness.

The majority of these measures will need a baseline to be compared to therefore fixed point photography, visitor counts and biodiversity surveys will begin during the development phase. The measures will be assessed annually to identify ways to improve the project for the remainder of its delivery. The participant numbers and feedback from events will be used in conjunction with feedback from collaborating organisations and internal staff to assess the quality of events and improve them both for attendees and collaborating organisations in future.

We will also be able to collect data on website and social media analytics as well as anecdotal evidence from social media and review sites such as google and Tripadvisor, which may be useful in giving a more complete picture of the impact the project has.

The collated evidence will be evaluated by an external company unless suitable skills, experience and capacity exist within the project team or wider partnership. Training will be arranged by the project manager during the development phase of the project to ensure staff know what information and evidence will be required for the evaluation and how to collect this throughout the project.

We intend to share our ongoing learning from the project throughout its delivery via the project webpage with information on how we will address any shortcomings in the future. After the end of the project the end of project evaluation will be published as a report and made available on the Hertford Castle Park and Gardens page on the East Herts Council website alongside the Greenspace Action Plan. It may also feature as a case study in the next Parks and Open Spaces Strategy which is due to be published in 2027. In addition, details and learning from the river restoration will be shared with the Middle Lea Catchment Partnership to aid in the delivery of other restoration projects in the catchment.

Project Costs

Summary of project costs.

[autofilled]

Development phase costs.

Project Costs

https://heritagefund.force.com/getandmanagefunding/s/apply-development/project-costs?id=5004J00000dni7tQAA

Cost Heading	Description	Cost	VAT	Total
New staff	<input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Professional fees	<input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Opening-up works / Surveys	<input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Capacity Building Activity	<input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Recruitment	<input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Other costs (development phase)	<input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Full Cost Recovery	<input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Contingency	<input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Non-cash contributions	<input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Volunteer time	<input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>

Development phase income.

Project Costs

https://heritagefund.force.com/getandmanagefunding/s/apply-development/project-costs?id=5004J00000dni7tQAA

Development-phase income.

Type	Description	Secured?	Evidence of income?	Amount
Local authority	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Other public sector	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Central government	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Private donation - Individual	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Private donation - Trusts/Charities/Foundations	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Private donations - corporate	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Commercial/business	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Own reserves	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Other Fundraising	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Loan/Finance	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Non cash contributions	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Volunteer Time	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>

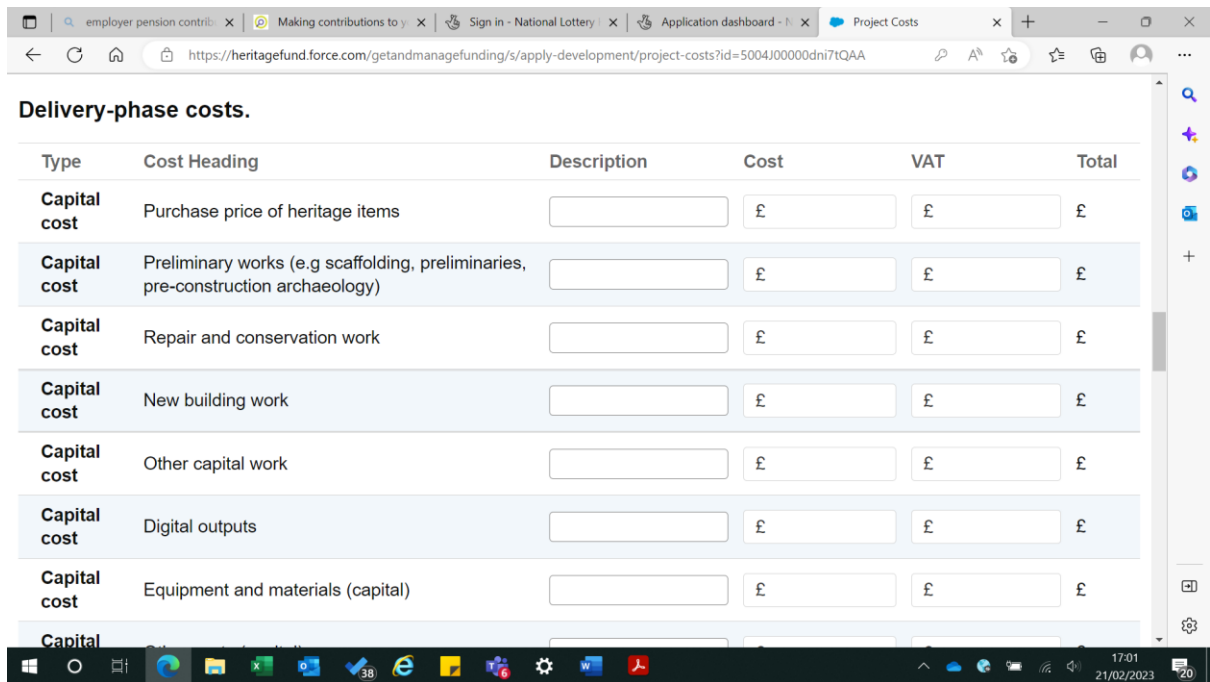
Including estimated grants

EA contribution

Heritage event is net zero income

In kind donations and volunteer hours (estimated value)

Delivery phase costs. Capital and Revenue.



Type	Cost Heading	Description	Cost	VAT	Total
Capital cost	Purchase price of heritage items	<input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£
Capital cost	Preliminary works (e.g scaffolding, preliminaries, pre-construction archaeology)	<input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£
Capital cost	Repair and conservation work	<input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£
Capital cost	New building work	<input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£
Capital cost	Other capital work	<input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£
Capital cost	Digital outputs	<input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£
Capital cost	Equipment and materials (capital)	<input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£ <input type="text"/>	£
Capital		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Project Costs

https://heritagefund.force.com/getandmanagefunding/s/apply-development/project-costs?id=5004J00000dni7tQAA

Capital cost	Other costs (capital)	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£
Capital cost	Professional fees (capital)	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£
Activity cost	New staff	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£
Activity cost	Training for staff	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£
Activity cost	Paid training placements	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£
Activity cost	Training for volunteers	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£
Activity cost	Travel and expenses for staff	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£
Activity cost	Travel and expenses for volunteers	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£
Activity cost	Event Costs	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£

Project Costs

https://heritagefund.force.com/getandmanagefunding/s/apply-development/project-costs?id=5004J00000dni7tQAA

Activity cost	Equipment and materials (activity)	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£
Activity cost	Other costs (activity)	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£
Activity cost	Professional fees (activity)	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£
Other cost	Recruitment	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£
Other cost	Publicity and promotion	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£
Other cost	Evaluation	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£
Other cost	Other	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£
Other cost	Full Cost Recovery	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£
Other cost	Community grants	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£

Other cost	Contingency	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£
Other cost	Inflation	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£
Other cost	Increased management and maintenance costs (maximum five years)	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£
Other cost	Non-cash contributions	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£
Other cost	Volunteer time	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£	<input type="text"/>	£

Save delivery costs

Project Costs

https://heritagefund.force.com/getandmanagefunding/s/apply-development/project-costs?id=5004J00000dni7tQAA

Delivery phase income.

Including estimated grants

Type	Description	Secured?	Evidence of income?	Amount
Local authority	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Other public sector	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Central government	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Private donation - Individual	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Private donation - Trusts/Charities/Foundations	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Private donations - corporate	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Commercial/business	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Own reserves	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Other Fundraising	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Loan/Finance	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Increased management and maintenance costs (maximum five years)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Non cash contributions	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>
Volunteer Time	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ <input type="text"/>

Your Organisation

Tell us about your organisation's main purpose and regular activities. (5,000 characters)

The District of East Hertfordshire has a population of approximately 150,000 and covers about 480 square miles on the eastern side of Hertfordshire.

The District has Broxbourne to the south, Welwyn and Hatfield and Stevenage to the west and North Hertfordshire as its northern boundary. To the east, the district borders on the county of Essex.

The main centres of population are Hertford, Ware, Bishops Stortford, Sawbridgeworth and Buntingford. Between these main centres much of the area is open countryside, with rural communities of various sizes.

The vision of the Council is to provide East Hertfordshire residents and businesses with a future that is prosperous and sustainable. In order to achieve this, a number of strategic objectives have been developed, which allow the Council in conjunction with its many partners to focus on the key issues that concern the residents of East Hertfordshire.

For more information on the Council's vision and strategic objectives, please see our [Vision & Corporate Priorities](#).

To see the map boundary of East Herts, see the [Ordnance Survey](#) map

Our priorities

Our priorities and how we will deliver them:

Sustainability at the heart of everything we do

- We will make changes to how the council manages its own premises, people and services
- We will use our regulatory powers to promote action by others
- We will influence and encourage others to be more environmentally sustainable

Enabling our communities

- We will invest in our places
- We will ensure all voices in the community are heard
- We will support our vulnerable residents

Encouraging economic growth

- We will develop new sources of income
- We will support businesses growth
- We will create viable places

Digital by design

- We will improve the customer experience for those who use council services
- We will work with partners to ensure our communities are digitally enabled

How many people does your organisation employ?

EHC currently employs 310 people (@ 02 02 23)

How many board members or Trustees does your organisation have?

East Herts Council has 50 Members:

<http://democracy.eastherts.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=158>

How much did your organisation spend in the last financial year?

East Herts Council spent £82.6m in 2020/21

There has been a delay auditing more recent accounts explained here:

<https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/about-east-herts-0/statement-accounts-budgets-and-annual-audit>

What level of unrestricted funds is there in your organisation's reserves?

See pages 14 to 15 of the Draft Statement of Accounts 2020-21:

https://cdn-eastherts.onwebcurl.com/s3fs-public/2021-08/Draft%20Statement%20of%20Accounts%202020-21_accessible.pdf

USABLE RESERVES –

General Fund 3,854

General Reserve 974

Earmarked Reserves 23,927

Capital Receipts Reserve - - -

Capital grants Unapplied 224

TOTAL 28,979

UNUSABLE RESERVES - Revaluation Reserve Note 21 16,956 21,355 Note 21 925 1,403 - Pensions Reserve Note 21 (35,038) (21,610) - Capital Adjustment Account Note 21 77,138 79,327 - Deferred Capital Receipts Note 21 147 148 - Collection Fund Adjustment Account Note 21 (9,840) 997 Note 21 (322) (202) 49,966 81,418 TOTAL RESERVES 78,945 98,20

Are you VAT-registered?

EHC is VAT registered.

Do you consider your organisation's mission and objectives to be any of the following? Please select the options that apply.

Black or minority ethnic-led

Disability-led

LGBT+-led

Female-led

Young people-led

East Herts Council is committed to ensuring that equality of treatment and opportunity are reflected in our policies, services and employment. We are currently in the process of developing our new corporate equality policy from 2020 onwards.

This is explained in more detail on our web site at:

<https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/about-east-herts-0/equalities>

Does your organisation use social media? If so, please provide us with some information (for instance, your organisations Twitter handle) (5,000 characters)

East Herts Council uses social media extensively to promote our objectives and communicate with our customers. These are the available links to find us all of which are managed by our experienced Communications Team:

Facebook

- [East Herts District Council](#)

Twitter

- [@eastherts](#)
- [@HealthyHubeh](#)

Instagram

- [@easthertscouncil](#)

Youtube

- [@EastHertsDistrict](#)

Linkedin

- [East Herts District Council](#)

Tell us how you review the Governance and Senior management arrangements in place for your heritage. (5,000 characters)

The Council has demonstrated its commitment to maintain the natural and built heritage in our recently published Parks & Open Spaces Strategy (available at <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/sports-leisure-and-parks/how-we-look-after-our-parks-and-open-spaces>). This includes a forward by our Executive Member for Wellbeing, Councillor Eric Buckmaster reassuring that the next five years will be committed to ensuring our parks remain fit for purpose to accommodate a higher volume of use as our District grows.

He explains that parks provide a vital opportunity for our residents to enjoy the outdoors. Green spaces are central to the council's vision of offering health and wellbeing to all.

The Strategy covers in detail the resources, aims and objectives in place for the next five years to manage our parks responsibly and effectively. It outlines that our parks will remain Attractive & Accessible to all, managed with a Commercial influence and Engaged with their users whilst considering the Environment and will continue to contribute to the wellbeing of our residents.

The Strategy will be monitored and reviewed, ensuring that objectives are met and that the document is replaced after the five year period.

Are you planning to undertake a governance review to ensure you have the right expertise to deliver and then sustain your project beyond the period of your grant funding? (5,000 characters)

The Strategy will be monitored and reviewed, ensuring that objectives are met and that the document is replaced after the five year period.