

## CHAMBERLAIN Highbury TRUST (CHT)

Report to Trusts and Charities Committee-November 2021

### Purpose

1.The purpose of this report is to:

(a)Notify the Committee that CHT has been awarded National Lottery Heritage Funding (NLHF) for the development phase of the major restoration project at Highbury, now known for the purpose of the project as “The Place That Made The Weather”, reflecting Churchill’s description of Chamberlain as “The Man that Made the Weather”

(b)Provide a progress report on the Gardens Project

(c)Present the CHT Annual Report and Statutory Accounts for the financial year 2020/21

(d)Provide an update on CHT expenditure in 2021/22 compared to the approved budget and allocation for the Highbury Trust

### The Place That Made The Weather

2. CHT is very pleased to inform the Committee that it has, at last, been awarded NLHF development funding for the major project at Highbury to restore the house and gardens. This is the culmination of nearly six years work by CHT, including three previously unsuccessful bids to NLHF, and is a significant achievement.

3. As with all major NLHF funded projects, this project will be in two phases

-the Development Phase, which includes working up detailed designs for the house and gardens, site surveys, fundraising for the second phase, activity planning and delivery, and detailed business planning.

-the Delivery Phase, which is essentially the restoration work.

4. NLHF funding has been awarded for the Development phase, and although funding for the Delivery Phase cannot, at this stage, be guaranteed there is every expectation that the Development Phase will lead to funding for the Delivery Phase, subject to a number of conditions, not least that CHT is able to raise the necessary match funding.

5. The cost of the Development Phase, and the funding for that phase is set out in the following table:

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE	£
Professional Fees	406572
Site Surveys	40800
Activity Planner and Volunteer Coordinator	22500
Other Costs, inc Volunteer Expenses	14260
Contingency	
Volunteer Time	85930
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	619000
FUNDING	

City Council	78000
Highbury Trust	40000
CHT Fundraising	38000
CHT Reserves	9000
Volunteer Time	86000
NLHF Grant	368000
TOTAL FUNDING	619000

6. This represents a significant step change in CHT activity and managing cash flow will be a challenge. Discussions are currently taking place with NLHF about how their grant will be paid and it would be very helpful if the contributions from the Highbury Trust (£40000 which was approved by the Committee at its April 2021 meeting) and the City Council (£78000, from the Council's contribution of £2m for the total scheme) could be paid as soon as possible.

#### Gardens Project

7. CHT and BCC's Landscape Practice Group have successfully completed the Highbury's Gardens Project, within budget. The driveway has been opened up, resurfaced and replanted as it was in Joseph Chamberlain's Day. The footpath network to the east of the house has been widened and surfaced allowing people on mobility scooters or pushing buggies to access the woodland walks for the first time. The beautiful old rhododendron varieties have been layered on site and micro propagated in a laboratory in Cornwall to be grown on and replanted in the gardens. Over 100 people have given their time to make this project a success most of whom were volunteers. The Heritage Open day in 2020 and the Sustainability Festival in 2021 showcased the achievements of the garden's project and attracted over 1,000 visitors. The numbers of daily visits to the gardens have increased by 40% and is now nearing 200,000 per annum.

#### CHT Annual Report and Accounts 2020/21

8. A copy of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2020/21, which were approved at the CHT Annual General Meeting on 20 October is attached. The Highbury Trust grant to CHT (£42000) is shown as an unrestricted donation on page 9 of the Accounts. Expenditure during the year against the grant was £37,725. CHT unrestricted reserves at 31 March 2021 were just over £40,500, of which £9000 is now required as match funding for the Development Phase of the Major Project. The Restricted Funds relate mainly to the Gardens Project.

#### CHT Expenditure in 2021/22

9. The Committee endorsed the budget submitted by CHT and approved a grant of £50,510 for 2021/22, none of which has yet been paid. It was recognised that, if the NLHF bid was successful, some of the expenditure included in that budget for the period December 2021 to March 2022 (including Activity Planner, Volunteer Coordinator and Administrator) would be included in the Development Phase, and, therefore, funded from the development sources of funding. Details of those transfers are currently being worked through and further detail will be reported to the Committee in due course.

10. CHT expenditure for the first half year (to 30 September) is broadly in line with the approved budget and CHT requests release of £25,000 of the approved grant for 2021/22.

## Summary

11. The Committee is therefore asked to:

- Note the award of NLHF funding for the Development Phase of the Major Project to restore the Highbury Estate
- Instruct officers to release the approved Highbury Trust funding for the Development Phase (£40000) as soon as possible
- Note progress on the Gardens Project
- Receive the CHT Annual Report and Accounts for 2020/21
- Note expenditure to date in 2021/22 and instruct officers to release £25000 of the approved grant for 2021/22